



# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION  
[www.ptga.org](http://www.ptga.org)

Founded in 1936

VOL. 17 NO. 2

April 2011



## April Meeting Southmoore Golf Course

*Bath PA*

*Host: Kelly Kressler, GCS*

Southmoore Golf Course will be our April host this year. Southmoore is a great jumping off point for the 2011 Golf Season. It is a Jim Blaukovitch course that opened in 1994. The course is laid out in Bath, Pennsylvania. It is an 18 hole layout measuring 6.165 yards and having a Par of 71. The course is rated at 70.4 with a slope of 128. Kelly Kressler will be our host for this meeting. Kelly has been at Southmoore since construction began in 1994. He has a staff of 15 in the summer

and a winter crew of 2. The staff cares for 3-½ acres of greens, 2-½ acres of tees, and 22 acres of fairway. There are another 80 acres of maintained turf on the property. Since our last visit, the 12th hole has seen a new tee added with new tees planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> holes this season.

This month Joe Gallagher of Ecological Solutions will be our speaker. Joe is an avid supporter of the environment and will be speaking on restoring lakes and ponds. This presentation will focus on management techniques to effectively and efficiently manage golf course ponds. Specific management considerations that will be discussed include:

- Chemical, biological, and mechanical control of plants and algae.
- Aeration: fountains vs. bubblers.
- Sediment removal and disposal.
- Aquascaping to improve water quality and aesthetics.

Our meeting sponsors for this month are Lee Koszey of Syngenta and Barry Goodhart of Advance Turf Services. Come on out and shake the rust of those clubs.

Remember, MET GCSA qualifying is Stableford-based, so every meeting gets you that much closer to the fabulous Galloway National Golf Club in October!





## President's Message.....

UGH! I am pretty sure that a Polar Bear just walked by my window, looking as bewildered as me. As far as records go, I am not sure if this has been the longest winter ever, or it only feels that way. Every time we start to see the light at the end of the tunnel, it turns out to be a locomotive headed our way. The weather man says spring is really going to arrive, just not sure when. Ok, Mother Nature, you win. We promise not to over water this summer, and we will also do a better job of not complaining that it is too hot.

Hope you all are well and eager to get started on a new year. Try to make a meeting or two and have some fun and maybe learn a few things on the way.

Good luck and see you soon,

**Rick Anglemyer**

## Editor's Notes.....

Wow, April is here and Spring still hasn't shown its head yet. Punxsutawney Phil was wrong this year. What say we make a nice groundhog stew and stick with Al Roker and The Weather Channel.

In my travels this spring I have seen everything from pristine putting surfaces to total devastation. Hopefully you are lucky and have a good starting point for this season's golf conditions. The Golf Committee has worked hard this off season to put together a schedule of good golf and speakers to help you further your career through networking and education. Make sure you take advantage of what the Association is trying to do for the membership. If there are things you would like to see the Education or Golf Committee do, please be sure to drop a line to our Directors so we can help the Association and its membership stay strong.

A word about the golf meetings...In an attempt to quell some complaints we are doing many new formats and blind draws. These are the tournaments we are running. If you would like to play with friends or club members, this isn't a problem - just opt out of the tournament and play with your friends or guests. We are trying to make these events fun days, so come on out and enjoy.

**Jim Gurzler**



### Officers & Directors 2011

**PRESIDENT**

Rick Anglemyer, Water Gap CC  
570-424-6391

**VICE PRESIDENT**

John Downer, Elkview C.C.  
570-840-0078

**TREASURER**

Ray Wadell, Elmhurst CC  
570-842-4705

**SECRETARY**

Patrick Knelly Sugarloaf Golf Club  
570-384-4724

**DIRECTORS**

Steven Chirip, Grass Roots, Inc.  
973-418-3468  
Matthew Brown, Turf Equipment & Supply  
484-357-6312  
Greg Boring, Country Club of Scranton  
570-587-4046  
Patrick Healey, Scranton Canoe Club  
570-378-2249  
Thomas Height, Country Club of Scranton  
570-237-0878  
Gino Marchetti, Glen Oak CC.  
570-586-5791

**CHIPS & PUTTS STAFF****EDITOR**

**Jim Gurzler, George Schofield Co.**  
**732-433-5474**  
[jim@gurzler.com](mailto:jim@gurzler.com)

**Managing Editor**

Melinda Wisnosky  
570-388-2167

**Editorial Committee**

Darrin Larkin  
Matt Brown

**Past President**

Darrin Larkin, Greenfield Power Equipment  
570-222-4330

**PTGA Office**

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

Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and/or person quoted, and may not represent the position of PTGA. Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission, as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.



## Research and Where it's Headed: Is Regionalization the Answer?

by Jim Gurzler

**T**rade Shows are dying! .....I can get my information from the web. I have all my credits for my license. I don't have the time.

All too common are the above reasons for not attending events that strengthen your association. A strong association with active members means a good sharing of ideas, fundraising for research, scholarship offerings, and general fellowship of the like minded. These events, largely run by volunteers and educators, take a great deal of time to put together and are a value for their membership. As an example, for one regional conference, I had heard 600 hours of his time was given by a superintendent working to make a successful event. This is time well spent because he had an eye to the future and the association and his peers in mind.

Conferences, so often taken for granted because they occur every year like clockwork in the off season, are of a real importance to the furthering of turfgrass research and education. This research is currently in jeopardy because of declining state budgets, a shift in priorities, and reduced resources of national golf-related organizations that has resulted in decreased grant support to universities. Penn State University is currently under tremendous pressure due to proposed budget cuts by Governor Corbett. These proposed cuts could reduce University staff by as much as 50%. If these cuts are rescinded, the farm budget could still see a 30% reduction, says Dr. Landschoot. This shortage will be dealt with by reducing summer staffers and diverting funds normally earmarked for research to maintenance costs. Dr. Dernoeden of the University of Maryland echoed these sentiments as well. The Maryland Turfgrass Council has seen their numbers drop as well in both vendor and attendee participation. This has resulted in a reduction in funding for research. Should conferences cease to exist, they could be replaced by webinars, social media, or websites, but interaction with peers, funding for research, and the free flow of ideas would suffer. Educators and researchers benefit from these gatherings as well. This is a time for educators and researchers to take the pulse of the industry- be it golf, sports turf, or lawn and landscape, to see what areas are relevant and where research funds need to be focused.

You have most recently seen this at the national level where dues increases, smaller trade shows, and staff reductions have been all the rage this off season. Depending on how you view the attendance at Orlando, whether from the rose-colored side of the room the GCSAA paints, or the more restrained side seen on Turfnet, the show was noticeably smaller than in past years. Orlando was always a strong venue as attendees could bring their families and the fact that a heavy weighting of golf courses exists on the east coast. When you look at this model as a precursor to challenges local groups will face, the cry of "Trade shows are dying" seems well based in fact. This is a problem universities must face, which in turn the turf manager will face. The GCSANJ has conceded the Crystal Conference to strengthen the state association and I know other associations are considering the same.

*Depending on how you view the attendance at Orlando.....the show was noticeably smaller*

Not knowing what research is needed by superintendents could be a moot point should the funding slow or cease. You may not have seen it, but there have already been reductions in research programs at universities nationwide. Should research dollars slow further from local chapters, opportunities to fund research and do more testing to promote healthy turfgrass will also continue to decline. Large donors such as the GCSAA and USGA have severely curtailed or stopped funding research altogether in a budget tightening effort. This makes your local events, be they golf outings, research field days, or annual conferences, even more important fundraisers for research dollars. What might have been thought of as a small contribution in prior years could now be enough to further an existing research trial or start a new one.

Environmental restrictions such as fertilizer ordinances, water restrictions, or pesticide reductions will put additional pressure on superintendents, heightening the need for science-based solutions to emerging and continuing problems. Future studies essential to prevent diseases on turf and landscape impacted by new laws will need funding and with golf still on the down turn, don't think you and your local association can't make a difference. That \$180 conference registration fee will be benefiting you not only during the conference and trade show, but during the coming seasons with the applied knowledge and the forthcoming research.

*(Continued on page 4)*



(Continued from page 3)

Those before us who started the PTC, NJTA, NYSTA, and PTGA had an eye toward the future and saw the need for research. Don't falter now when conditions are more demanding and environmental stresses are increasing, as are outside influences such as legislation.

Having spoken with Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University and Dr. Peter Landschoot from Penn State University about their take on these conferences, both agreed that they strengthen the association and are important tools for their programs. These venues create an area of free thinking on turfgrass conditions and issues, as well as provide a revenue stream to the various researchers to continue beneficial studies. They also agree the internet and social media are a great benefit in getting information disseminated to the public in real-time, but conferences should not be overlooked for their importance in disseminating the latest in depth research findings and getting feedback from the field in applied conditions.....as well as being a great place to drain a few pints with friends from school and catch up on events in each other's lives.

These turf conferences were started, as well as many local organizations with a common foundation, "To promote interest and good will in the association, encourage good relations between members and the clubs they represent...And to keep up with the current developments in turf and related work." -Bill Smart HVGCSA 1961

The PTGA, GCSANJ, PTC and most organizations have this standard in their incorporation documents somewhere. This was the purpose of the organizations to group the like-minded, which are regionally attached

and to make the sharing of information easier and more relevant. These conferences grew from the need for improvements in conditioning and the enhancement of turfgrass and pest control.



I wonder what the anthracnose outbreaks of the 2000's, gray leaf spot of the 90's, and summer patch of the 80's would have done to golf courses and fine turf had research efforts not benefited from the golf boom of the same period? Now as the economy settles in for a new trend, funding is limited on all fronts. Golf maintenance budgets are trimmed, expenses scrutinized, labor budgets reduced and with this come more trials for the turfgrass manager. These budgets are analyzed on the other side as well since vendors, distributors, and manufacturers have all had their budgets cut. This leads to less vendor participation at association events which, leads to smaller income totals for the organizations. This, in turn, will lead to restructuring of local associations, thus the benefits of the local will be curtailed as donations and events will be hampered. Don't underestimate your participation in local events; as a non-attendee we all suffer your loss be it from your insight, your camaraderie, or your cash infusion. When you say a turf conference or tradeshow isn't of value, remember those that support them have a hard time justifying their participation as well without your attendance and support. When you see those notes in conference brochures and newsletters asking "Please support our sponsors" remember this means taking the time to attend these gatherings as well.

I remember reading an article, from Golfdom, I believe, about where a superintendent would spend his money should the need arise to reduce expenses; a resounding "locally" was the outcome. With this in mind re-

(Continued on page 5)

Office & Home Phone White Haven 570-443-9596 Fax 570-443-9590	Top Dressing Bunker Sand Infield Mix
<b>Blue Ridge Peat Farms, Inc.</b> White Haven, PA 18661-9674	
Potting Soil Soil Mixes	Gene Evans, Owner Professional Engineer

<b>FINCH</b> <small>SERVICES, INC. Est. 1945</small>	 <small>JOHN DEERE GOLF</small>
<b>SALES * PARTS * SERVICE</b>	
<b>TED ZABRENSKI</b> 484-614-6436 cell	
tzabrenski@finchinc.com www.finchinc.com	
North Wales, PA	



(Continued from page 4)

member that when the next conference rolls around, not that national conferences should be overlooked, local support relates to local benefits.

National groups have made great contributions to research throughout the country, but St. Augustine research or Bermuda trials aren't really of benefit to those in the Northeast, nor are gray leaf spot on ryegrass beneficial to those in southern climates.

When a group like the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council can donate more than \$2,000,000 over their years of existence to research, realize your conference participation benefits everyone.



There are still positives out there for turfgrass research, as shown by the continued positive support given to events such as the annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic. This May will mark its 16<sup>th</sup> year and the tournament has generated over \$1,000,000 for research and education programs at Rutgers University. At Penn State, a new endowment has recently been established through the hard work of superintendents who formed Pennsylvania Turfgrass Research, Inc. This endowment, in the amount of \$300,000, was developed through donations by private individuals and corporations. Stories such as these do give us hope for continued research funding but also remind us of the hard work that is required to continue such growth through our various turfgrass organizations. Research is truly needed, because as everyone learns, plant science doesn't always equate to the landscape art we are all expected to provide. One thing to consider might be the consolidation of turfgrass conferences to bring together large groups from the turf and landscape industries and regionalize these shows on a larger scale. This, in conjunction with the growth of web based information sources, could be just the thing to continue the needed research and fulfill the mission statements of these organizations. So, come on out to your local events be they golf outings, education conferences, or field days. Show your support for your local associations and turf research, and strengthen your profession. Enjoy the interaction with those who understand what you do.

Thanks to Dr. Bruce Clarke, Dr. Peter Dernoeden, Dr. Peter Landschoot and Matt Shaffer for their help with this article.

**Genesis**

Contact your local sales representative

**Brian Bachman**  
484-661-6105  
bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com

**Jim MacLaren**  
570-499-6408  
jjim@genesisturfgrassinc.com

For more information visit  
[www.GenesisTurfgrassInc.com](http://www.GenesisTurfgrassInc.com)

**grass roots**

Grass Roots, Inc.  
P.O. Box 336  
Mount Freedom, NJ 07970

4 Middlebury Blvd.  
Suite 7  
Randolph, NJ 07869

**Steve Chirip**  
Technical Sales Rep.

(973) 418-3468, Mobile  
(570) 839-3399, PA Office  
(973) 252-6634, NJ Office  
(973) 252-6630, NJ Fax

Service ♦ Technical Support ♦ Quality Products

**Quality Materials**  
Engineered Sands & Soils

732.356.SAND Fx. 732.356.5161  
Cell. 732.433.5474

**JAMES GURZLER**  
Sales Associate

jamesg@geoschofield.com  
PO Box 110, Bound Brook, NJ 08805

Div. of Geo. Schofield Co., Inc.



## Pocono Turfgrass Association 2011 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, 2011. 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 October 31, 2010. 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:

Rick Anglemyer  
Water Gap Country Club  
PO Box 725  
Mountain Rd.  
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327





**Kevin Driscoll**

609 760 4099 CELL 856 769 9555 OFFICE 609 561 5384 FAX  
596 Pointers Auburn Road ▪ Pilesgrove NJ 08098



Next month we return to Jack Frost for some June golf with Bryan Nuss. Mark your calendar for some fun on May 17th



## Winter Injury Alert!

By David A. Oatis, director, Northeast Region  
February 17, 2011

In recent weeks, Green Section agronomists have been speaking with superintendents all over the Northeast Region with respect to winter injury and various strategies associated with possible removal of snow and ice layers from putting green turf. Although we currently are still several weeks away from understanding the extent of injury, damage already has been documented at a few courses. As the snow and ice recedes and/or is removed, more damage likely will come to light.

At least at a couple of golf courses, it appears that significant injury occurred in late December and early January and likely can be attributed to crown hydration injury. A thick layer of ice has covered many putting greens since then, and some superintendents who have cut through the ice are discovering signs of anoxia. Toxic gases build up slowly under ice layers after prolonged cover, and even courses with ice layers intact for 35-40 days have discovered the tell-tale foul smells. On at least one course, the water from the melting ice quickly turned green, a sure sign that plant cells have been ruptured and the chlorophyll is leaking out.

Thus, if the "smell of death" is present under the ice layer on your greens, the ice should be removed as soon as possible. Unfortunately, some damage has already occurred, and the process of ice removal itself can further injure the turf. Exposing the turf to additional freeze/thaw cycles also can result in more damage. However, leaving the ice alone with anoxic conditions would practically guarantee damage, too. Courses facing this dilemma clearly are in a no-win situation.

Recovery obviously is weeks and perhaps months away, so the only thing that can be done now is to assess damage by uncovering the turf and bringing plugs inside for incubation. Within a week or so, you should get a feel for whether or not damage is present and how extensive it might be. Taking plugs from low areas and high areas will provide an indication of the extent. Armed with this information, you can begin preparing your golfers and developing recovery strategies.

There are many different ways to promote recovery, and some courses quickly will resort to sod, whereas

others will aerate and seed. Regardless of the chosen method, keeping damaged greens closed until the turf has recovered is the most important first step. Damaged turf that is subjected to play will recover much more slowly, and this prolongs the aggravation. Furthermore, winter injury is an opportunity to establish new and improved bentgrasses in putting greens, so, although there clearly is plenty of short-term pain, there can be long-term gain.

If you have questions or would like to discuss damage prevention and/or recovery strategies, give us a call. We are always ready to help. Source: Northeast Region Green Section- Dave Oatis, Director [doatis@usga.org](mailto:doatis@usga.org); Adam Moeller, Agronomist [amoeller@usga.org](mailto:amoeller@usga.org) Jim Skorulski, Senior Agronomist [jskorulski@usga.org](mailto:jskorulski@usga.org).



Only John Deere Golf offers both a full selection of golf maintenance equipment and soft goods from top name brands. Plus advice on how to pick the best of each for your course. Call us today.



Think Ahead.

Equipment Sales:  
Finch Services, Inc.,  
Hanover, PA  
717-632-2345

Agronomic Sales:  
NE PA: Brent Wood, SOW,  
570-499-1441

## POCONO ROUNDUP

The By laws are under review and changes will be voted on in June at Mountain Valley Golf Course. Check the website and newsletter for the revisions.

Congratulations to Lance Heil, formerly of the Shawnee Inn & Resort on his new position at Suffield Country Club in Connecticut. Lance began there the end of March 2011. Good Luck, Lance.

Congratulations to Jeff Reber, Jeff is taking over for Bob Kaufmann as Superintendent at Mountain Valley Golf Course in Frackville, PA. Jeff will be our host for the June meeting. Join us in wishing Jeff well in his new position.



**Lee A. Kozsey**  
Territory Manager  
Turf, Ornamental & Aquatics  
**Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.**  
3710 Amherst Court  
Bethlehem, PA 18020  
Tel 610-861-8174  
Fax 610-882-9358  
Mobile 215-796-0409  
www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com  
lee.kozsey@syngenta.com

For further assistance, contact our  
Customer Resource Center at: 866-Syngenta (866-796-4368)

## PTGA SCHEDULE

- April 19** Southmoore Bath PA  
Kelly Kressler, Supt  
Joe Gallagher, Pond Management
- May 17** Jack Frost National, Blakeslee, PA  
Bryan Nuss, Supt.  
Dr. Peter Landscoot, PSU
- June 21** Mountain Valley, Frackville PA  
Jeff Reber, Supt.  
Mike Hartley, TES
- July 12** Scranton Canoe Club, Lake Winola, PA  
Pat Healey, Supt.  
John Kaminski, PSU
- Aug 16** Buck Hill Country Club Buck Hill Falls, PA  
Tim Stem, Supt.
- Sept 27** Paupack Hills Country Club, Greentown PA  
Mark Monahan, Supt./GM  
Doug Linde, Del Val
- Oct 18** Blue Ridge Country Club, Palmerton PA  
Pete Bablevy, Supt  
Stan Zontek, USGA



### Effective, Safe, and Ready for Play!

*As a golf course professional, you demand superior results on every tee, every green, and every fairway. At Growth Products, we are here to help!*

Call Craig Lambert: 973-601-3303  
Clambert@GrowthProducts.com



(800) 648-7626 / www.GrowthProducts.com

**POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION**  
**309 TERRACE AVENUE**  
**HARDING, PA 18643**

**PHONE/FAX 570-388-2167**  
**WEBSITE: ptga.org**