



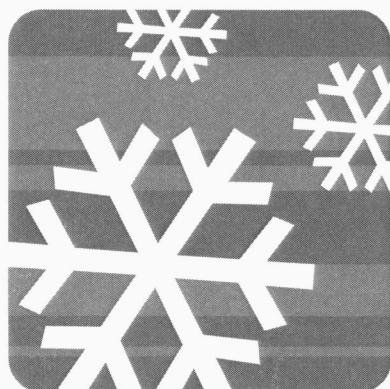
CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
www.ptga.org

Founded in 1936

VOL. 17 NO. 7

Nov/Dec 2011



And the winners are....



As a result of the email proxy vote, the election of new officers is official.

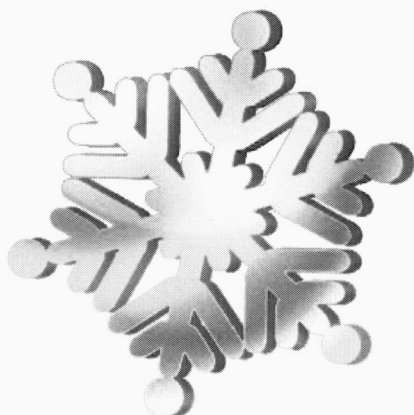
President.....John Downer, Elkview

Vice President....Patrick Knelly, Sugarloaf

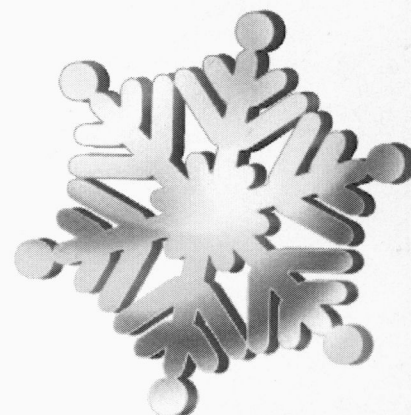
Treasurer....Greg Boring, Scranton CC

Secretary.....Ray Waddell, Elmhurst

It's Official....



The email proxy vote concerning
changes to the by-laws has passed.
The new by-laws are now in effect.





President's Message.....

It is my privilege to serve you as president of this grand association. I look forward to the coming year and continuing the great work of my predecessors. If anyone feels they can contribute in even the smallest way, please contact any Board member. We are open to any and all suggestions. If there are any of your neighboring courses who are not involved with the PTGA, please approach them and see if they would be interested. The Board of Directors are all working

For those who are wondering, NO as of November 22nd, Downer does not have the covers on yet. The plow is ready, new tees are complete, all fungicides out, irrigation blown, bring it on.... Old Man Winter. Get your skis and ice fishing

John Downer

Editor's Notes.....

The "off season" has finally come. The leaves are blown, dormant feeds are out, snow mold applications are down, and the plow trucks are ready. For some, the off season isn't much slower.... clubhouse renovations are done by maintenance staff, equipment renovations are starting, tree work needs to be done, and planning for next year is in the works. For others, being laid off over the winter is the new normal, whether you want to be or not. Whatever your scenario, make sure you take some time to spend with loved ones, recharge your batteries, and read all those Pocono newsletters you haven't had time for over the past months.

Please check out the Chapter Delegates Corner which is information provided by our PTGA representative to GCSAA Ray Waddell.

From my family to all of yours.....Merry Christmas

Brian Bachman



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570-586-5791

CHIPS & PUTTS STAFF

EDITOR

Brian Bachman, Genesis Turfgrass Inc.
484-661-6105
bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com

Managing Editor

Melinda Wisnosky
570-388-2167

Past President

Rick Anglemeyer, Water Gap CC
570-424-6391



PTGA Office

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

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October Meeting Wrap Up Blue Ridge CC

Superintendent Champion

1. Duane Schell....85
2. Rick Anglemeyer.....85

Affiliate Champion

1. T. J. Hart....79
2. Paul Brandon....86

Skins

- Steve Chirip - birdie on #8
Barry Goodhart - birdie on #12

MET GCSA Tournament Results

Congratulations to the Pocono Turfgrass Association team that attended the MET GCSA Tournament at Galloway National in NJ. Representing the Association were: Ron Garrison, Paul Brandon, TJ Hart, Steve Chirip, Jerry Decker, Patrick Healy, and Chris Butler. They turned in a team score of 318, placing them in the middle of the pack. The final standings were:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Philadelphia GCSA | 294 | 9. Pocono | 318 |
| 2. MET GCSA | 301 | 10. Northeastern GCSA | 327 |
| 3. Central Penn GCSA | 305 | 11. Connecticut AGCS | 330 |
| 4. New England GCSA | 306 | 12. Rhode Island GCSA | 333 |
| 5. Hudson Valley GCSA | 306 | 13. Eastern Shore AGCS | 336 |
| 6. GCSA of NJ | 309 | 14. Long Island GCSA | NC |
| 7. Central NY GCSA | 312 | 15. Mid Atlantic AGCS | NC |
| 8. GCMA of Cape Cod | 313 | | |

So how can I get to play in the MET you ask?????

Any member of the Association has the ability to qualify for the MET Tournament....whether you're a scratch golfer or have an 18+ handicap. All you have to do is participate....coming to the monthly meetings is more or less the most important factor in qualifying. So get out during the season to some meetings and enjoy going to the MET Tournament, too.

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GCSAA Chapter Delegates Corner

News Items:

1) Summary of Chapter Delegates Meeting November 1, 2011

Value of membership, member standards, field staff highlight agenda

"Ask and you shall receive" was the theme for the 19th GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting, conducted Oct. 28-29-30 at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., and the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, Mo.

Association executive staff and elected leaders solicited feedback and frank discussion on a multitude of topics and charged attendees to communicate with their respective chapters upon their return home. GCSAA Vice President Sandy Queen, CGCS set the tone in his welcome to the delegates saying "we want to hear from you. It is vital that you share this information with your chapters."

Second-year delegate Tim Powers, CGCS representing the GCSA of Northern California appreciated the forum which gave him the opportunity to learn more about GCSAA programs and the priorities of the Association. "It's obvious that we have terrific leadership that is extremely qualified and doing good things during these challenging times," Powers said.

As is traditionally the case, approximately one-

third of the delegates were attending the meeting for the first time. The mixture of experience among attendees created a positive environment for interaction, learning and information sharing.

"It gives you a sense of ownership and having a say," said first-time attendee Class A member Troy Martin of the Miami Valley GCSA. "The Board and staff have done a fantastic job in creating an environment to contribute and share ideas. I attended the Leadership Academy last year and I left impressed with what GCSAA was doing for the members. This meeting only reinforces that. I'm energized to go back to my chapter to share the information."

Value of Membership

GCSAA President Bob Randquist, CGCS repeated a message that he has emphasized throughout his term in office: GCSAA must enhance the value of membership and demonstrate it to the members. He outlined several new programs implemented in the past year including expansion of the field staff program, creation of a new job board, growth of social media, a new website, new resources to enhance sustainability of the golf facility and the online Self Assessment Tool to measure member competency and identify resources to facilitate improvement.

This discussion and an open town hall meeting format generated many suggestions as to how

(Continued on page 5)



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(Continued from page 4)

GCSAA might increase and demonstrate value, with many ideas focused on delivering value at the chapter level through field staff and enhanced use of technology.

Second-year delegate Jeff Berg, Class A member representing the Virginia GCSA said the many ideas offered were a by-product of the board's willingness to listen and engage the delegates. "Sometimes it's good to shake things up a little,"

Berg said. "Stirring the pot is not necessarily a bad thing if it's done positively. We came out of the weekend with items on which both GCSAA and the chapters can take action."

Field Staff Expansion

Randquist elaborated on the field staff program, noting that four regions (Florida, Great Lakes, South Central, Southwest) were staffed and two more would be assigned by the end of 2011 (Northeast, Northwest). All nine GCSAA regions are slated to have resident field staff by the end of 2013. He said the directive for the program remains unchanged: to create a greater link between the association and its chapters – something he believes is happening "to an even greater degree" than he had expected this early in the program.

GCSAA staff also provided several examples of the activities where field staff have helped to facilitate chapter effectiveness through association programs including strategic planning, advocacy, membership growth and allied association relations. A roundtable discussion was conducted among smaller groupings of delegates to examine areas for opportunity and measures of success for field staff. The feedback was loud and clear that the program had great potential to create an even greater impact in the future.

"I was one of the early naysayers," Minnesota GCSA delegate Kevin Clunis, CGCS said. "But once we began hearing about the successes and how it was helping chapters, my president asked me 'how fast can we get ours?' I'm sold on it."

Member Standards: 10 Years Later

For Randquist, the meeting featured a bit of a "Back to the Future" moment with the introduction of the Member Standards Advisory Group which has been formed to take a strategic look at the impacts the membership standards have had on the association and its members. It has been 10 years since members approved the implementation of member standards by a 3 to 1 margin. Randquist, who served on the group that coordinated the development of those standards, said the current board felt the review was prudent, but not based on any preconceived notions.

"Ultimately there may be no changes to the standards," Randquist said. "But the board felt enough time had passed since the implementation that we could get some feedback on the impact. We selected the advisory group, but that is as far as we went. What they find will not be directed by the board."

The group, which will work independent of the board, will review the impact of the standards to determine if the goals are being met, if there have been any unintended consequences, and make recommendations to the Board on a future course of action in regards to standards. The 11-member group will be chaired by GCSAA Past President Sean Hoolehan, CGCS and with GCSAA Past President Tim O'Neill, CGCS serving as vice-chair. It will feature a diverse cross section of the membership including certified members, Class A, SM and C representatives. There is no firm deadline for the group's report, but an update on the group's progress will be delivered at the 2012 Chapter Delegates Meeting.

Additional Discussion Items/Activities

It was announced that beginning Nov. 1, GCSAA webcasts would be free of charge for all members.

It was announced that members wishing to apply for certification can now do so immediately upon attainment of Class A status. The additional requirements of one year as a Class A and 5.0 education points have been removed. GCSAA continues to

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

grow its collaboration with allied golf associations to strengthen the game of golf. It is imperative that representatives of those organizations on the facility level work in the same fashion to affect positive change as well.

Newly appointed chief operating officer Richard Konzem was introduced.

Candidates running for board and officer positions made presentations and hosted breakout discussions

An in-depth presentation on GCSAA government relations efforts revealed collaboration among staff, chapters and allied associations is having a positive impact.

Four chapters made presentations on programs they have instituted with the assistance of GCSAA resources in the areas of BMP development, media/public relations, strategic planning and government relations.

The GCSAA promotional package on the Golf Channel was well-received and supported as an important investment of funds.

Outlined were new features for Conference and Show, and the National Championship and Golf Classic including education programs, networking opportunities and cost-saving options available to attendees. This includes a chapter incentive program for golfers who have not participated in the tournament in the past two years.



How does the Pocono Turfgrass Association compare to other associations across the state??

Memberships:

	<u>Supt</u>	<u>Asst</u>	<u>Commercial</u>
Philly	125	58	74
Central	94	27	66
Pittsburgh	116	51	76
Pocono	66	22	43
Northwest	60	5	42
Keystone	28	4	14
Mt. Valley	56	15	35

Additionally, the Northwest Association has recently dissolved due to a lack of interest from the members to lead the association.

What!



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For those of you who may have missed it.....

Here is some update information on the status of the new legislation regarding the pending fertilizer regulations

Hello all. Attached is the draft legislation that the Senate intends to introduce in the near future to deal with the application of fertilizers on turf in Pennsylvania. This draft is a response to the Maryland language that we first circulated and does incorporate some of our recommendations. Please remember this is just the START of this process and the draft is a work in progress. That said, this draft is a very good start for us. Specifically, it:

- Requires the Department to do a certification program that will be streamlined with the pesticide program, and more importantly, it MUST recognize other forms of training (the certification programs that many of you already go through);
- Eliminates the fear of different municipalities playing by different rules by ensuring that the state law would supersede any local ordinance;
- Delineates clearly between consumer products/applications and professional products/applications;
- Provides flexibility regarding soil tests (i.e. doesn't have to be PSU);
- Provides some flexibility on the use of phosphorous;
- Provides better flexibility on the "end" date for application of fertilizer (we will continue to work on an even later December date)

These are all ideas we either suggested or support.
However, we will continue to work with legislative staff to fine tune this language.

UPDATE, PART-2:

As far as a general update goes, you can use the one we sent to you yesterday (it's included below). In addition, here are a couple of thoughts about where we are in the process.

(Continued on page 8)



Fran Berdine

199 Warn Avenue
Pine Bush, NY 12566
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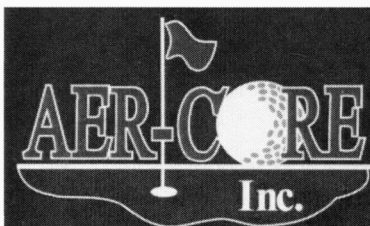
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The good news is that generally speaking, nothing has changed with regard to the policy decisions that will have the most immediate impact on the golf industry. All turf, other than turf farms, but including golf courses, continues to fall under the category of urban nutrient management when DEP, the legislature and others talk about any changes that need to be made in the application of fertilizer. Moreover, the primary tool that the Commonwealth will likely use to regulate the application of fertilizer to turf is legislation that would create statewide rules regarding the application of fertilizer.

At this point, the legislation under consideration is SB 1191. This is the bill that you, your members, the national folks and owners have all provided input on. Included below is a previous update on the provisions of SB 1191. Again, nothing has changed yet. An amendment is being drafted (we have provided input on that amendment) that will revise SB 1191. Mark will get you that text as soon as it is available and you can forward it to everyone for their review and comment. He will also do a summary of what changes the amendment makes to the original text of SB 1191. And remember, this amendment is just the next step in the process. We can't emphasize enough that the golf course industry will continue to have its voice heard as the bill makes its way through the process.

As far as how different sectors are being treated during this process. There is no indication that any sector – whether it is agriculture or municipal governments or builders, etc. – is being given the upper hand on golf or anyone else for that matter. In fact, Phase I of the WIP clearly reflects the positive role our industry has had as does the current version of SB 1191. And, we expect this to continue. Remember, different sectors have different issues that the legislature and DEP need to address, but the fact that there are differences doesn't mean someone is getting preferred treatment. Really, you guys are in good shape.

Anyone who would like a copy of Senate Bill 1191
or the most recent amendments,
please contact Brian Bachman,
and he will gladly forward them to you.



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THANK YOU

A big thank you to the Golf Committee and the Board for all their efforts to line up the monthly meetings, speakers, and results. And thank you to all of the hosts for showing their courses off to their peers. It was another year of great venues and great conditions. Bravo!!!!

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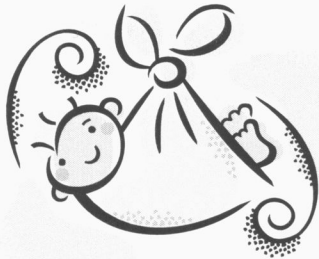
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POCONO ROUNDUP

It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Brian Bachman and his family on the arrival of their daughter Ayana Bachman on Friday, October 21, 2011.



If anyone has any events they would like to have recognized (births, weddings, etc) please contact any Board member or the Editor, Brian Bachman, to have it put in the newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- Dec 25 Merry Christmas
- Jan 3-5 Eastern PA Turf Conference
Valley Forge, PA
- Jan 26 NE PA Turf Conference
Wilkes Barre, PA
- Jan 27 Annual Pocono Association Ski Trip
Elk Mountain
- Feb 7-9 Western PA Turf Conference
Mars, PA
- Feb 27-Mar 2 GCSAA National Turf Conference
Las Vegas, NV



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