



GCSAA

# CHIPS & PUTTS

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

Founded in 1936

VOL. 17 NO. 6

October 2011



## October Meeting **Blue Ridge Country Club**

*Host: Pete Beblavy*

*Speaker: Stan Zontek, USGA*

Our final meeting of the year takes us to an old favorite in Blue Ridge Country Club in Palmerton. Pete Beblavy, Golf Course Superintendent, is our host. A former site for the annual clambake, we return to the (hopefully) slightly warmer southern climes to finish out the year.

Originally established in 1915 as a 9 hole course by the New Jersey Zinc Company with land donated by Palmer Land Company (whose owner was the namesake for the town), the design and architecture cannot be attributed to any one architect. In 1990, the club expanded to 18 holes. Although there is a "Cornish influence" on the new 9, there is once again no one architect for which the design can be attributed. Since 1999, local renowned architect Jim Blaukovitch has completed a master plan for the course which is chipped away at as time permits. In 2003 the club invested in an updated and beautiful new clubhouse overlooking the course. The course now plays as a 6,700 yard par 72.

Born and raised in Palmerton, Pete is in his twelfth year as superintendent at Blue Ridge, and has worked at the club for 23 years. A 1996 graduate of Delaware Valley College, Pete is assisted by PSU grad Dion Barner.

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## President's Message.....

Wow! That was rough; two months of rain has taken its toll. I, for one, am looking forward to a little down time. The sun is shining bright as I write this and my puddles are a bit less deep. With everything that's going on in the golf industry, we should be happy to have good honest work. A few clubs are shutting down for good and that's a sad thing. Good luck to those of you that may have that happen to you.

Great job to Brian on his first newsletter. It was really well done. This will be my last newsletter as President; good luck to the next one. It has been my honor to help guide the PTGA for these last two years. Hope to see you at our last meeting of the year at Blue Ridge Country Club.

Thanks to the Board,

*Rick Anglemeyer*

## Editor's Notes.....

Another month has gone by, and all that we can talk about is the rain...truly a year to remember (and one to try and forget). Thankfully, things have finally started to dry out (a little) and everyone is starting to catch up on mowing and putting their courses back together.

This month's newsletter has information on the new Tier IV regulations that are coming our way from the EPA. These regulations will certainly impact the turf equipment industry and subsequently your purchasing decisions and buying power, so take the time to educate yourselves and be proactive. A special thank you to Matt Brown of Turf Equipment and Supply for providing the Tier IV information.

Finally, kudos to Rick Anglemeyer for his two years of service as President of our Association. It's another thankless job, but one that he has done well with. Hope you all can make it to Blue Ridge C.C. for the meeting.

*Brian Bachman*



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## Proposed By Law Changes:

This is the third and final reading of the 2011 proposed by law changes. The by law changes will be emailed to each member for review. The changes are to be voted on by A and SM members after 3 readings. The changes and current by laws are available on the website for review as well. Should you have questions or comments on these proposed changes or any other changes you may wish to have made, please contact Tom Height with your suggestions and make yourself available for the voting meeting in October at Blue Ridge Country Club.

### SECTION 3 . MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

#### Class AA - Life Members

To qualify for Life Membership one must have retired as a Golf Course Superintendent, and have reached the age of 55, and meet one of the following criteria:

- (a) A voting member for at least twenty-five (25) years
- (b) A former board member

A Life Member shall have all the rights and privileges of the Association except that of holding office. They shall pay no dues or assessments.

#### Class A - Golf Course Superintendent

To qualify for Class A membership, an applicant shall have at the time of application for membership a minimum three (3) years experience as a Golf Course Superintendent and be employed in such capacity. Class A Members shall have all the privileges of the Association, subject to the provisions of Article V, Section 1 hereof.

#### Class SM . Golf Course Superintendents (formerly Class B)

To qualify for Class SM membership, an applicant shall be a Golf Course Superintendent who has at the time of application for membership, less than three years experience as a Golf Course Superintendent, and shall be presently employed in such capacity. Class SM Members shall have all the privileges of the Association, subject to the provisions of Article V, Section 1 hereof.

#### Class C - Assistant Golf Course Superintendents

To qualify for Class C membership, an applicant shall be, at the time of application for membership, an Assistant to a Golf Course Superintendent, and shall be presently employed in such capacity. Class C Members shall have all the privileges of the Association, subject to the provisions of Article V, Section 1 hereof. One Class C member will serve as a "C Liaison" on the Board of Directors as voted on by the membership.

#### Class D - Golf Course Employees

To qualify for Class D membership, an applicant shall be any person of good character who at the time of application for membership is employed at a golf course represented by a Class A or Class SM member of this Association. Class D members shall have such privileges of the Association as the Board of Directors may specify by Standing Rules, except those of voting or holding office.

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#### **Associate (AS)**

To qualify for Associate membership, an applicant must be a person interested in the growing, management or production of turfgrasses. Associate members shall have all the privileges of the Association, except those of voting and holding office.

#### **Affiliate (AF)**

To qualify for Affiliate membership, an applicant must be a person interested in the growing, management or production of turfgrass, either individually or through employment by, or other affiliation with, a company, proprietorship or association, who does not qualify for membership in any other class. Affiliate Members shall have all the privileges of the Association, except those of voting for the Class A, SM and C members of the Board of Directors. AF members vote for AF board members.

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

##### **SECTION 1 . OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

The control and management of the Association and its affairs and its property shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors, consisting of its officers and at large Directors. A majority of the Board of Directors shall be Class A, Class SM, as well as one Class C Member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The Officers of the Association shall be Class A or SM members of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America which shall include President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

##### **SECTION 2 . QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

Class A, Class SM, and one Class C member(s) who are actively employed as Golf Course Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents are eligible to serve as Directors of this Association. Affiliate (AF) Members can also hold positions on the Board of Directors as long as their numbers are in a minority to the Class A, Class SM and Class C Board Member summation. There shall be elected at each annual meeting of this Association the following named Officers who shall serve on the Board of Directors: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold office for a period of one (1) year and until their successors are elected and qualified and who shall perform the duties hereinafter prescribed for each of such offices. There shall likewise be a maximum of three (3) successive terms. There shall likewise be elected to the Board of Directors five (5) members of this Association who shall be elected to two year terms by the membership. An election shall be held each year for those Director positions whose terms are to expire. The Immediate Past President of the Association shall serve as a Director until he is succeeded by the pre-

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siding President. The Officers of the Association, as hereinabove provided for, together with the Directors as above constituted, shall constitute the Board of Directors of this Association. Each member of such Board of Directors shall be entitled to vote at the meetings thereof and a quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be not less than a majority of said Board of Directors. In the event a member of the Board of Directors becomes unemployed, he has six (6) months to become employed again as a Class A, Class SM, or Class C Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent before having to resign his seat on the Board of Directors. In the case of the Affiliate Member, a vacancy shall occur, and a replacement found under the guidelines of Section 3 of this Article.

## ARTICLE XI DISSOLUTION

### SECTION 1

In the event of the dissolution of the Pocono Turfgrass Association, after all liabilities and responsibilities have been met, its assets shall be distributed for one or more of the exempt purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as from time to time amended. Decision of distribution shall be by the Board of Directors, and focus on Universities and research programs with the highest regard to Turfgrass studies.

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Pete and Dion work with their in-season staff of 6 full time and 6 part time employees to maintain the 2.5 acres of greens, 1.5 acres of tees, and 25 acres of fairways at Blue Ridge. This scenic course is cut through some beautiful terrain and often hosts a wide variety of wildlife, including some black bears.

This month's meeting is our annual election and business meeting. We will also be voting on the proposed by-law changes that have been published in the previous newsletters. Additionally, the final tournament of the year is our Championship Tournament played in a stroke play format. Please come out before the snow comes and enjoy one last fling with your peers.



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## Tier IV...What is it and what does it mean to you?

Article content contributed by Matt Brown

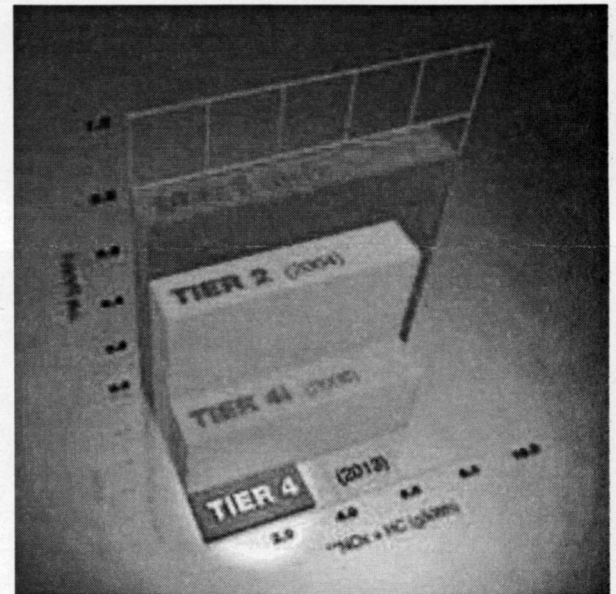
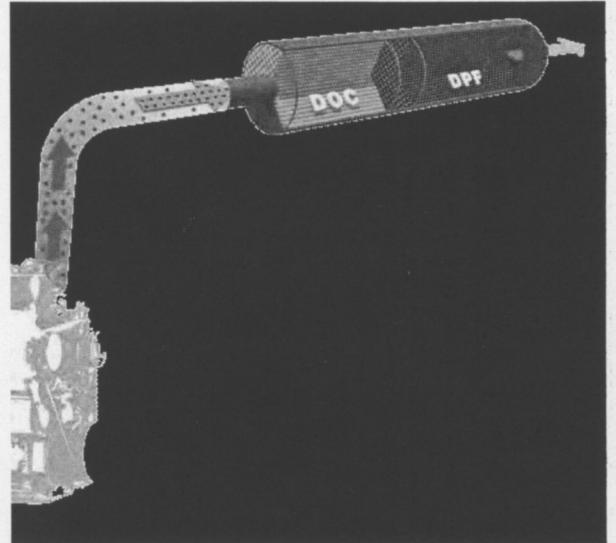
The Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 4 diesel engine emission reduction mandate will soon have an impact on your business. Tier 4 compliant Turf Equipment, in the 25 to 74 horsepower (hp) category, manufactured after January 2013 will be better for the environment and healthier for everyone, but it will also cost more. Understanding the financial implications of various compliance options - today - will allow you to evaluate all of your options, in advance, so you can make the most beneficial decision for your business.

### The EPA Tier 4 Standard is about cleaner air!

All US regulated emission standards, including Tier 4 for off-road diesel engines, are extensions of the "Clean Air Act" (1963) which was enacted to reduce air pollution in the United States. The "tiered" mandates were put in place to progressively reduce the level of harmful emissions such as Particulate Matter (PM) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) that enter the air via diesel engine exhaust. The most stringent emission reduction mandate to date, is called "Tier 4". The Tier 4 emission standard will reduce emissions of PM by 90% from current levels.

### What Tier 4 means to Turf Equipment Manufacturers

Compliance with Federal Regulations, like EPA Tier 4, is not optional. The EPA Tier 4 emission reductions were first mandated in industries with large on-road vehicles (such as semi trailers and other diesel-powered trucks) and followed shortly thereafter in industries with large off-road diesel equipment (such as agricultural and construction equipment). In each case, the cost to manufacture Tier 4 compliant models went up substantially



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## September Meeting Results

It was a great day at Paupack Hills C.C.— and it didn't rain! Thanks to Mark Monahan and everyone at the club for a wonderful day. Following are the golfing results:

1st Place—Tom Collum	Closest to the Pin #7—John Downer
2nd Place—Eric Reed	Closest to the Pin #16—Don Benner
3rd Place—Brian Bachman	Longest Drive—Ron Garrison
1st Place Guest—Chris Boyle	

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due to the significant scope of the changes needed to implement compliant engine and exhaust after-treatment technology.

The incorporation of Tier 4 compliant diesel engines into today's Turf equipment solutions (25-74 hp), will require significant equipment redesign. Tier 4 compliant diesel engine/exhaust system solutions: 1) require more sophisticated electronics to monitor and control emissions, 2) are physically larger in size, and 3) have new and more expensive components - particularly in the exhaust after-treatment area.

Compliant models may require retooled engine compartments, modifications to chassis frames and re-engineered cooling systems. Over a third of the parts for a given model will likely need to be reworked, replaced or otherwise re-engineered in order to integrate Tier 4 compliant engines and exhaust systems into the products! As such, existing models are "retrofit" capable.

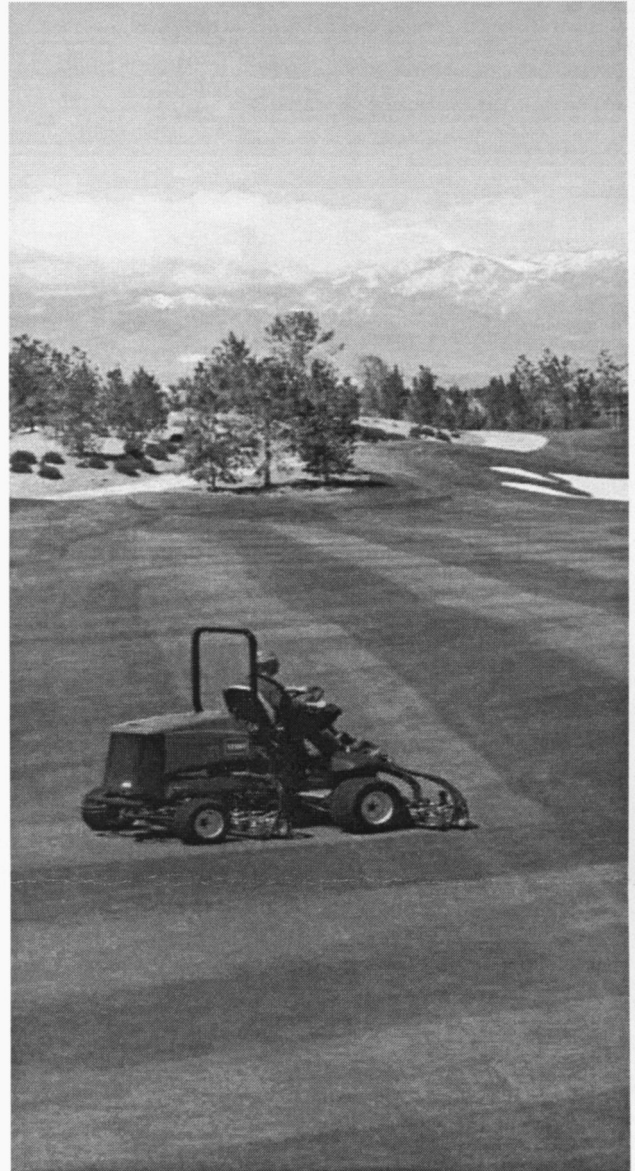
The obvious message is that the design, manufacturing and component costs - to deliver Tier 4 compliant diesel powered product will increase significantly, beginning with machines manufactured in 2013. Cost reductions, while always a high priority in product redesigns, will not be sufficient to offset cost creases.

#### Be Prepared for the Tier 4 Mandate

Educating customers early, regarding the financial impact of Tier 4, provides sufficient time to evaluate multiple options.

The additional time will allow you to thoughtfully consider the most meaningful approach for your business as it relates to environmentally and financially prudent (i.e. Tier 4 compliant) turf equipment purchases.

End users in other industries that have already lived through the transition to Tier 4 have taken a few different strategic



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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 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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*Technical Sales Rep.*

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approaches when developing their capital spending plans around Tier 4 compliance:

- **Go "Green"**

Some end-user companies embraced the new Tier 4 product and wanted to position themselves as leaders in the "green" space. They got in line for the new products early, despite the higher prices, to lead the charge toward cleaner air.

- **Business as Usual**

Other companies chose to simply pay the market price (even if it was forecasted to go up substantially) when their current capital plan called for new equipment or when their equipment simply reached the end of its useful life.

- **Buy Used**

Equipment manufactured prior to 2013 is grandfathered-in" and does not need to be retrofitted to Tier 4 standards.

- **Pre-Buy**

Many companies decided to buy equipment in advance of the mandatory Tier 4 changeover (at lower prices) to defer the need for higher priced products as long as possible and to give them more time to adjust to the new market pricing.

**What can or should you do?**

**Act now to learn more and share what you know!**

- Become knowledgeable about the coming EPA Tier 4 Emission Standard:

- Conduct a simple internet search on "EPA Tier 4 Emission Standards" to learn as much as you can on this topic directly.

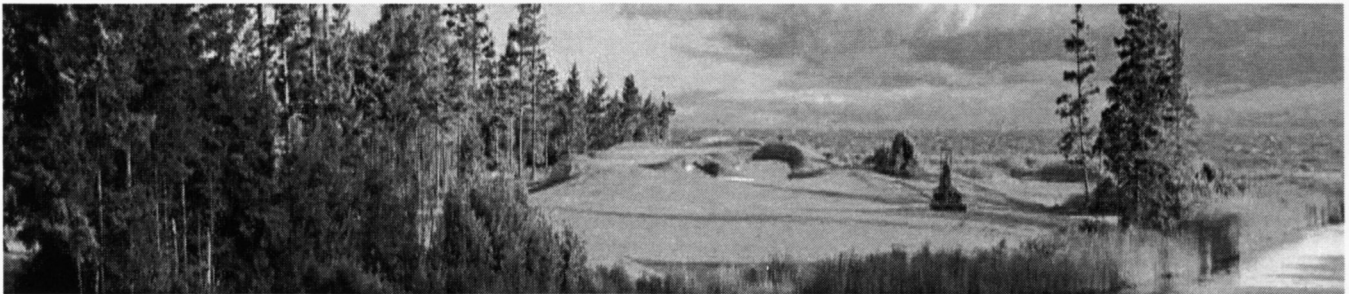
- Ask any equipment manufacturer who supplies diesel powered equipment 25 to 74 hp how they plan to become Tier 4 compliant.

- Educate your leadership team and financial stakeholders about Tier 4 and the possible impact it may have on your equipment purchasing plans.

- Understand the availability for both existing and new Tier 4 technology solutions and how it may influence your options and decisions starting in 2013.

**Create a capital equipment acquisition plan with a longer-range view of spending priorities.**

- Specifically review your diesel equipment needs by Tier 4 hp category (i.e. less than 25 hp, 25 to 74 hp, 75 hp and higher).
- Perform financial ROI analysis for different scenarios to understand possible financial impact based on various strategies.
- Understand budgetary and product availability implications of purchasing equipment before and after the mandatory January 2013 compliance timing.



**Reminder from the Golf Committee and the Board of Directors:**

We have a reservation deadline for meetings as a courtesy to the hosting superintendent and their pro shop and restaurant staffs. The PTGA policy is a cancellation 24 hours prior to the event will result in no charge to the club or individual who cannot attend; additionally late registrations incur the additional fee of \$10.00 over the regular advertised price of the meeting. We use these rules out of respect to our members who graciously give of their course for our gatherings. These fees will be assessed to the member for themselves and their guests. Please make the necessary calls to Melinda regarding your attendance so that everyone may enjoy these gatherings.

# *Chips & Putts*

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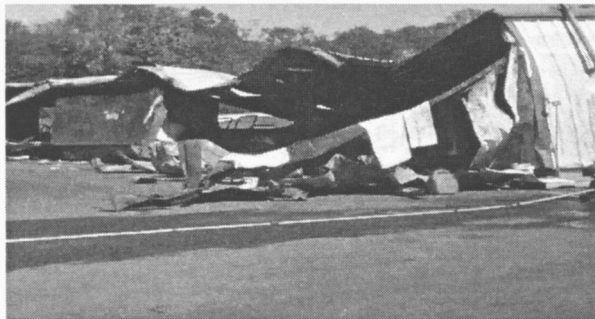
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## POCONO ROUNDUP

Our condolences go to Bob Price at Edgewood in the Pines. Within a 3 week period, Bob had 2 floods and his maintenance building burned completely to the ground....a total loss. Thanks go out to all of the superintendents and vendors who quickly came to Bob's assistance with offers of equipment or help. It's tragedies like this that remind us of the generosity and camaraderie that make this industry great.



A final farewell to....  
Mt. Manor GC and The Center Valley Club have closed their doors permanently. Another sign of the times we live in.

## Upcoming Events

- Oct 17 Corky Knoll Memorial Scholarship Tourney  
Moselem Springs GC, Fleetwood PA  
Contact Tim O'neil (timomsgc@ptd.net)
- Oct 18 Blue Ridge Country Club, Palmerton PA  
Pete Beblavy, Supt  
Stan Zontek, USGA
- Nov 15-17 Penn State Golf Turf Conference  
State College, PA
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving
- Nov 28 BANG....First day of deer season
- Dec 6-8 NJ Turf Conference  
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