



# CHIPS & PUTTS

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

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March 2012



## April Meeting **Berkleigh Golf Club**

Host: Nick Curry, Golf Course Superintendent

Speaker: Matt Schaffer, Merion C.C.

Our first meeting of the year takes us south to historic Berkleigh Golf Club. A private club for the vast majority of its existence, Berkleigh has now been open to the public since 2008, providing that rare opportunity for many to play a great course that was never available to them before.

Originally built in 1925 and incorporated in 1927, Berkleigh is a par 72 playing 6,800 yards from the tips. With rolling hills and multiple water features, Berkleigh combines a great golf course with beautiful aesthetic features. Robert White was the architect and superintendent at its founding. Interestingly enough, he was a native of St. Andrews and was the first

*(Continued on page 5)*



## President's Message.....

Welcome all to a new year. It goes without saying: let's have a great golf season. The weather will be different, I guarantee it! Your Board has been working very hard this winter to insure very attractive events this coming summer. You can check out the schedule at [ptga.org](http://ptga.org). The winter has hurt me personally, no plow revenue, no winter Pocono S.N.O.W. meeting, yet. There is still time.

Each year I start my winter season in a spectacular golf tournament hosted by Mike Stranzl at Hickory Valley called "Superintendent's Revenge". Mike and his staff out perform themselves each year, and it is a great time. I can't say it enough that visiting courses other than your own empowers you with many ideas. Take advantage of the Pocono Turfgrass meetings and use them to your benefit. We see most of each other at conferences and seminars over the cold months. Mid summer breaks for a day at a completely innovative course, meeting with superintendents who are never known to brag (HA) can be informative. Just ask anyone. Oh! by the way, Your sales rep is probably at the meeting supporting you and your peers and he would sure love to see you there.

Let's hope the start of the season is smoooooth. For those who had to cringe this winter watching foot traffic on those dormant greens, I sympathize; it would kill me. Always look on the bright side; you will be a hero when they bounce back. Don't be afraid to call for suggestions from anyone in this great Association.

*John Downer*

## Editor's Notes.....

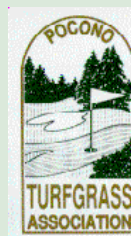
The start of the 2012 season is quickly approaching (then again, did 2011 ever end?), and with that, the newsletters will begin to flow again.

As always, I'm looking for input and articles from anyone and everyone. This is YOUR Association and industry, so if you come across anything interesting that would be great to share with the whole, don't hesitate to pass it on to me.

With that said, look for a new, recurring segment in the newsletter called "Vendor's Views." It will contain musings from the dangerous minds of those of us who get lots of windshield time but see many different courses, problems, and solutions. Thanks John Vojick for the suggestion. Also, we'll be trying out a segment called "Photo of the Month." We all see interesting things, so take a picture and send it in.

I hope to see many of you at the interesting venues and speakers that are lined up this year.

*Brian Bachman*



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## Pocono Turfgrass Association 2012 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, 2012. 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 June 30, 2012. 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:

**John Downer**  
**Elkview C.C.**  
**161 Country Club Road**  
**Greenfield Twp., PA 18407**





## PTGA Membership Drives

Thinking of becoming a  
PTGA Member??



Know someone who  
would like to be a PTGA  
Member??

The Pocono Turfgrass Association has revived some old initiatives to make your membership even more valuable than it already is by introducing two new membership drives:

### Drive #1:

Any Class A superintendent member who joins the Association (with their paid dues and approved application, of course) will be able to attend the monthly meeting immediately following their membership for FREE!!!

Please Note.....Free meeting excludes the clambake in August

### Drive #2:

Any existing member who signs up 3 new members (with their paid dues and approved application, of course) will be able to attend the monthly meeting of their choice (excluding the clambake) for FREE!!!

**Talk to any Board Member for additional details.**



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## Pending Fertilizer Regulations in Pennsylvania:

Legislation concerning commercial fertilizer applications continues to be adjusted, amended, and pushed in the State Senate. These regulations will eventually effect all of us, and it's not a matter of if it happens but when.

While we have a lobbyist in the state in contact with lawmakers making known the concerns of the green industry, it is still a great idea to **contact your local representatives** to make them aware of the issue. Many representatives are not even aware of the Bills that are being worked on and need to know the concerns of their constituency.

Please make sure to contact your local representatives and make them aware of the concerns.

**To contact your local representative click on this link:**

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm?CFID=113231075&CFTOKEN=85205402>

Help yourselves, your facilities, and your industry by making your voice known.

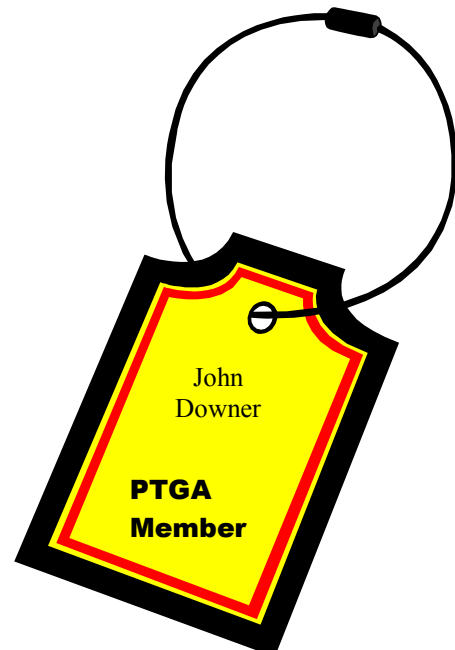
*(Continued from page 1)*

PGA president. In the many years that Berkleigh has been around, it has earned a reputation as a premier course in the area and had been the host for the LPGA Betsy King Classic for 10 years.

Nick Curry, a 2002 Rutgers grad, has been the superintendent at Berkleigh since 2010, previously building and growing in Woodbridge GC. He has also been the assistant at Hickory Valley and got his feet wet at Silver Creek CC. Joined by a staff of 8 through the summer months, Nick and the crew keep the course in great shape.

Get the season off to a great start and come out to play this beautiful tract.

**As a service to our members and a way to say thank you.....  
All PTGA members will receive their own bag tag to proudly display.**





## Vendor's Views

### The Death of a Tradition??

By: Brian Bachman

Trade shows....once such a huge part of our winter time activities have now become inconsequential in many instances to golf course superintendents. I remember the days of the large, thriving Eastern PA Turf Conference, with rows of new equipment to kick the tires on, aisle after aisle of vendors and products, speakers and topics that grabbed the attention, and countless colleagues to mingle with. Those days, however, seem to be a thing of the past. The equipment is gone, the show room with vendors is half the size, finding relevant topics seems more and more difficult, and attendance dwindles. One has to wonder just how long the show will go on.....

Regardless, the vendor's will continue to support these shows to help the industry and support their customers.

But, rising in the place of trade shows seems to be local seminars sponsored by a variety of vendors. The pesticide credits are usually as good or better, the attendance is through the roof, the food is great, and the event is usually free or of nominal expense.

No matter where trade shows end up, education will continue and vendor support will be right there.

### A new monthly feature to the PTGA newsletter.....

#### Photo of the Month

We all see interesting things every day....wildlife (like bald eagles and bears), strange turf problems (like a lightning strike), an employee who stayed out to late the night before, etc. So if you have a great photo, send it to me (bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com) and share it for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



#### March Photo of the Month

This photo was submitted by Steve Stranzl, a long time PTGA member. He mowed this into a fairway at our upcoming meeting location, Berkleigh GC.

Creativity....it's such a fun part of our profession.

# *Chips & Putts*

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## POCONO ROUNDUP

Congratulations to Tom Height who got married over the winter. He should be able to remember his anniversary date (New Year's Day).

Congratulations also to Scott Hallett, who has just taken over as Superintendent at Hideaway Hills GC.


Congratulations to Steve Stranzl, who will be taking on superintendent duties at Green Acres GC (for the second time around).

## PTGA SCHEDULE

**April 25th** PTGA meeting @ Berkleigh  
**Speaker:** Matt Schaffer,  
Merion CC

**May 14th** PTGA meeting @ Mt. Airy  
**Speaker:** Jim Nedden,  
TESCO

**June 19th** PTGA meeting @ Terra  
Greens GC  
**Speaker:** Dr. Landschoot  
PSU



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