



# CHIPS & PUTTS

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

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## August Meeting

### **Elmhurst CC**

Host: Ray Waddell, GCS

Elmhurst C.C. welcomes the PTGA for our August meeting. A familiar venue for many of us, Elmhurst has previously hosted our annual clambake. With the original 9 holes constructed in 1929, Elmhurst is reminiscent of many classic Pocono golf courses, but as to the architect....well that remains a mystery. Some have pointed to Donald Ross or White, but none are able to truly give credit to the original designer. The second 9 holes opened just 2 years later in 1931. Two new holes were built in 2001 and #18 was reconfigured in 2006 to give us the current 18 hole track. Playing at a modest 6,686 yards from the tips, don't overlook the difficulty of Elmhurst. The tree lined fairways, multiple water hazards, and slick bent/poa greens make Elmhurst a true test of our ability (not to mention this is our official qualifier for the MET Tournament). Ray and Elmhurst hosted the Nationwide Tour in 2008 and 2009 and are the annual venue for the PIAA district tournament.

Speaking of our host, Ray completed the 2 year turf program at Rutgers and has been the superintendent at Elmhurst since 2004. Ray and his long time assistant, Dave Weber, have taken on or

*Continued on Page 5*



## President's Message.....

What a great summer! Our meetings have been well attended and very educational and enjoyable. Those who attended the annual clambake saw nothing but excellence at the Country Club of Scranton. Thank you, Mr. Boring.

With three meetings left of the season, I would like to remind you that the difficult rain at the June meeting at Pocono Manor postponed the qualifier for the MET Championship. Therefore, the meeting at Elmhurst in August will be the Qualifier.

We will then be welcomed at Glenmaura National in September and Huntsville in October. Elections will be held in October. Those wishing to help sustain the PTGA in the upcoming years can submit their name to Executive Secretary Melinda for election to the Board of Directors. Anyone in need of a sounding board, bouncing ideas or just to compare ideas may contact a Board member. We are here to help and make you stronger.

Thank you,

*John Downer*

## Editor's Notes.....

Well, September...I mean August is upon us. The beautiful and refreshing weather is a nice respite from the brutal July we had.

A big "Thank You" to Greg Boring and the staff at CC of Scranton for the amazing day of golf and food enjoyed by all. We had a huge turnout and one of the best weather days to play golf that I can remember. The course was amazing!!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed pictures and info for the newsletter. It is greatly appreciated.

See you all at Elmhurst.

*Brian Bachman*



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## Syngenta Accepting Applications for Business Institute

Syngenta is excited to announce for the fifth year, they are inviting golf course superintendents across the United States to apply for the Syngenta Business Institute™, an innovative professional business development program developed specifically for the industry in partnership with Wake Forest University Schools of Business.

The unique, four-day program focuses on financial and human resource management, delegation skills, effective communications and negotiation skills, managing general differences and more. The program will supplement and complement superintendents' existing knowledge base, allowing more productive and efficient golf course management.

Syngenta is eager to provide a learning experience that goes well beyond the agronomic requirements of a superintendent's job. The Syngenta Business Institute will be held **Dec. 9-12, 2013**, at Graylyn International Conference Center on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. Superintendents must fill out an application, which includes an essay on why they believe they should be selected to attend. The application is due by Tuesday, Aug. 20 and can be found at [www.greencastonline.com/SBI](http://www.greencastonline.com/SBI).

Only 25 superintendents will be selected to participate.

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## PTGA Membership Drives

Thinking of becoming a  
PTGA Member??



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

Anyone who joins the Association (with their paid dues and approved application of course) will be able to attend any monthly meeting immediately following their membership for half price!!! (Half-price meeting excludes the Clambake )

Talk to any Board Member for additional details.

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### July Meeting Wrap-Up

What a beautiful day for golf and an equally beautiful venue. Thanks to Greg Boring and his staff for a memorable day. From the course, to the food, to the camaraderie you couldn't ask for a better day.

**1st Place (59)** Greg Boring, Jay Boring, Michael Vassil, Pat Murphy

**2nd Place (60)** Patrick Knelly, Matt DeMarco, Dave Shaffer, Kevin Rentschler

**3rd Place (60)** Duane Schell, Tony Barletta, Matt Kachurak, Josh Popowycz

#### **Closest to the Pin**

#3 Fran Ankenbrand 5'4"

#5 Matt Kachurak 14'3"

#11 T.J. Hart 9.5 inches

#### **Long Drive #18**

Jay Boring

#### **Skins**

Patrick Knelly group with an eagle on #6

John Vojick group with an eagle on #8

Fred Rapp group with an eagle on #12

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Continued from Page 1

overseen several projects over the years, including some that have been completed since the last time we were there. These projects include rebuilding the #1 green complex, new tees on #2, #3 and #8, and removal and reshaping of the bunkers on #6. The driving range was also redone with target greens and bunkers and a short game practice facility has been added. Next on the list of things to do is to add greens surrounds heads. Ray and his crew of 14 full time seasonal employees will have the place in great shape for us, and we hope you'll find the time and opportunity to join us at Elmhurst and enjoy a day of camaraderie, golf, and food!!



## GCSAA Announces New Field Staff Representative



Chase Rogan, previously the owner of a turf consulting company in Pittsburgh, Pa., will serve as a liaison to GCSAA members in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Rogan will serve as GCSAA's Mid-Atlantic Regional representative. The Penn State graduate has extensive experience as an assistant superintendent and turf consultant in the region.

Rogan is a familiar face to GCSAA members in the Mid-Atlantic region through his varied experience in the area. He comes to the Association after owning his own turf consulting company in Pittsburgh, Pa. Prior to that he worked as an assistant superintendent at Butler Country Club and Edgewood Country Club. He has been an active member in GCSAA and the Greater Pittsburgh GCSA, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. He has been an invited speaker at the Western Pennsylvania Turfgrass and Trade Show and the Penn State Golf Turfgrass Conference. While pursuing graduate studies, he served as an assistant instructor in a turfgrass nutrition course. He has a firm understanding of the economic, social and environmental dynamics in the industry, as well as thorough scientific knowledge of sound agronomic principles. He also has an established network of relationships with superintendents and others in the industry in the Mid-Atlantic region. He is twice a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, holding a bachelor's degree in turfgrass science and master's degree in agronomy.

The Mid-Atlantic region includes Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, and includes these associations:

**Central Pennsylvania GCSA**  
**Eastern Shore Association of GCS**  
**Greater Pittsburgh GCSA**  
**Mid-Atlantic Association of GCS**  
**Mountain & Valley GCSA**  
**Northwestern Pennsylvania GCSA**

**Old Dominion GCSA**  
**Philadelphia Association of GCS**  
**Pocono Turfgrass Association**  
**Virginia GCSA**  
**West Virginia GSA**





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

**Please pick up your tag at the meetings throughout the season.**



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### **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 too late the night before, etc. So if you have a great photo, send it to me ([bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com](mailto:bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com)) and share it for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



### **August Photo of the Month**

Yours truly snapped this photo. This picture is from the 6th green at the former Center Valley Club in the Lehigh Valley. Center Valley closed its doors nearly two years ago and the once manicured bent-grass fairways have been replaced by corn. Notice the cart path on the right still in place.

A sad sign of the times for a once beautiful venue.

# *Chips & Putts*

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## POCONO ROUNDUP

### Hotel Makeover

Keep your eyes open for one of our local courses, Water Gap C.C. (Wolf Hollow), to be featured on national television in September. They were the recipient of a hotel makeover via "Hotel Impossible" on TLC. More details to follow.

### Scholarship Winners

The PTGA scholarship winners will be announced in the next issue of "Chips & Putts."

### PTGA SCHEDULE

- August 26 PTGA meeting @ Elmhurst  
Qualifier for Met Tourney  
Speaker: Dr. Buckley  
Rutgers University
- Sept 17 PTGA meeting @  
Glenmaura National  
Speaker: Darin Bevard  
USGA
- Oct 21 PTGA meeting @  
Huntsville Golf Club  
Annual Meeting

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