



CHIPS & PUTTS

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

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October Meeting **Huntsville Golf Club**

Host: Mark McCormick, GCS

Our final golf meeting of the year is hosted by another great Pocono course, Huntsville Golf Club. This highly rated (5th in Pennsylvania) Reese Jones design opened in 1994. At 7,204 yards, the bentgrass greens, 6 sets of tees, and fairways are spread over this rolling 500 acre property. The finely manicured playing surfaces are framed by extensive native fescue areas and 110 bunkers. Huntsville has been host to several U.S. Open qualifier events and a number of other amateur events, as well. As you can imagine, a course of this relatively new nature has only needed minor renovations, the most recent of which was the installation of drainage on holes #16 and #2. In the future, there is a possible tee renovation project in the works.

Overseeing Huntsville and these projects is long time superintendent Mark McCormick. Mark is a Pennsylvania native, growing up in State College. Of course, you can't grow up in

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President's Message.....

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president in the past two years. I have been a member of this Association and enjoyed the camaraderie of the membership, their families and friends since the mid 1980's. It is my hope this will continue in the years to come. Although the past few years have been difficult for me, the support and help of so many of the members has been strengthening. I THANK YOU ALL.

The Pocono Turfgrass Association is very strong. Those who have served on the Board in the past are owed a great appreciation. The objective to serve and help others to improve the industry of golf is obvious to those who attend conferences and meetings. Everyone is willing to share ideas, provide observations and solutions. The experiences that each and every member brings to the table are overwhelming. Don't miss out. Get to meetings and conferences. Share your knowledge.

On a personal note, yes, after a six month chase of Harrisburg, I have attained a Wildlife Pest Control Permit, one more item to add to the resume. After weeks of study and a two hour exam in June, the Pennsylvania Game Commission sent the Permit Back Dated March 2013 to June 2013. Not a typo - June 2013. Had to call and get re-permitted to June 2014. This took weeks. All you can do is laugh!! Insanity surrounds us all, and you can't fix stupid. Words to live by.

The last local meeting of the 2013 Season is at Huntsville. This is our election and reorganization of the PTGA. Please attend. Meeting sights are needed for the 2014 Season. Those who wish to have the honor of serving on the Board are encouraged to get their names on the ballot. The future of the Association is bright. Those who are serving on the Board do so with the members' support and input. They are strong leaders, good people and willing to help anyone in need.

Remember to manage, stabilize, motivate, maintain and above all LAUGH!

John Downer

Class A – Golf Course Superintendent

ISA Arborist

Permitted Wildlife Pest Control Agent

Editor's Notes.....

Here we come...to the last meeting of the season at Huntsville. It's been a great lineup of meetings for the year and this one is no less impressive.

The weather doesn't seem to want to turn into fall, which can be good for revenues but exhausting for superintendents still chasing irrigation in a month when they normally don't have to.

Thanks for all the pictures submitted this year and please keep them coming.

Brian Bachman



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September Meeting Wrap-Up

Glenmaura was as spectacular as ever for our September meeting. Thanks to Jeff Koch and his staff for the great conditions and a successful day. The greens were lightning fast and the food was delicious. Hopefully, we'll be able to come back soon.

Superintendents:

1st Place(72) Russell Hauenstein and Jerry Decker

2nd Place (74) Jeff Smolha and Bob Morin

3rd Place (77) TJ Hart and John Downer

Closest to the Pin Members

#9 Corey Pries 8'2"

Closest to the Pin All

#11 Bob Morin 10'7"

Long Drive #11

Rick Anglemyer

Skins

Paul Brandon and Steve Chirip #8

Ian Kunesch and Chris Moran #11

Chris Snopkowski and Aaron Giordano #18

Jeff Smolha and Bob Morin # 12



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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.

PTGA Elections

Our final meeting of the year will be held on Monday, October 21, 2013, at Huntsville Golf Club. This is also our Annual Meeting in which elections to the Board of Directors is conducted.

Anyone wishing to run for a position on the Board, please contact one of the following members:

John Downer, President, 570-840-0078 or email johnfdowner@gmail.com

Patrick Knelly, Vice President, 570-956-3331 or email psk114@sugarloafgolfclub.com

Patrick Healey, Sgt. at Arms, 570-793-6426 or email patrickdhealey@gmail.com

Melinda Wisnosky, Executive Secretary, 570-388-2167 or mmel500@aol.com



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State College, enter the turf industry, and not attend Penn State. During his time at Penn State Mark worked at the Blue and White courses followed by summer internships at Castle Pines and Settin Down Creek. Hired right out of Penn State with his degree in hand, Mark has been with Huntsville since the construction days in 1992.

Starting as the second assistant, Mark moved his way up the ladder over the years and was eventually named superintendent in 1999. Assisted by Casey Sheehan, Mark and the crew of 4 full time year round employees, 7 full time seasonal, 6 part time seasonal, and 6 true part timers oversee this vast property.

As with many of us, Mark is a family man away from the course. He and his wife Janel have two daughters, Tyra who is 11 and Payton who is 14. In his free time, Mark enjoys hunting, fishing, and hiking with his family.

If you've never played Huntsville, or even if you have, I would encourage you to take the opportunity to play one of the true gems of the Poconos!!



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Assistant Superintendent Symposium

Turf Republic is putting together a symposium for Assistant Superintendents. Bill Brown with Turf Republic states, "One of the key missions of Turf Republic is the enhancement of the future of the turf industry and that needs be started with our future leaders. With that being said, we are putting together resources for those individuals. We are really excited about this free event we have put together with the help of Syngenta for Assistant Golf Course Superintendents to attend. It will be held on Oct 23rd at Rivercrest Country Club in Phoenixville, PA. We are hoping some of the more northern members would want to attend. We have some great speakers lined up, Bruce Williams, CGCS, Matt Shaffer from Merion GC and Darin Bevard from the Mid-Atlantic USGA".

The link to the event is - <https://agcs-symposium.eventbrite.com> They have 40 spots open. Individuals can sign up right from the link provided and it is first come, first serve. It is for Assistant Golf Course Superintendents only.

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) and share it for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



October Photo of the Month

Not 20....not 25....23 MPH.

One of the interesting things you get to see on the road.

I snapped this photo from a local Pocono golf course.....any guesses?

Chips & Putts

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Points for a Purpose

The Wee One Foundation is asking golf course superintendents nationwide to donate a portion of their Early Order Program points to the Wee One Foundation through participating turf care supply companies. All donated points will be matched as a cash donation from the participating organizations. Donations will help ease the financial burden of medical expenses for golf course superintendents.

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For a complete list of participating companies, visit weeone.org

wee one
foundation

Wee One Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit association. A tribute to Wayne Otto, CGCS.



Pocono Team places 5th in the Annual Met Tournament at Mountain Ridge C.C.



Team members (L-R): Brian Bachman, John Downer, Ian Kunesch, Steve Chirip, Jerry Decker, TJ Hart, Chris Boyle, Paul Brandon



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POCONO ROUNDUP

What's New?

Any news you would like to share with our members of the Pocono Turfgrass Association? Please send the information to bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com



PTGA SCHEDULE

Oct 21 PTGA meeting @
Huntsville Golf Club
Speaker: Darin Bevard,
USGA

Nov 12-14 PSU Turf Conference

Dec 4-6 Atlantic City Turf Expo

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