



CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
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July Meeting **Jack Frost National** *Host: Bryan Nuss*

Jack Frost National is located in Blakeslee, PA, in the heart of the Pocono Mountains. The course is situated on over 200 acres and was planned as the centerpiece of a housing development. The course was designed by Terry LaGree who has designed other courses as well, including Royal Oaks Golf Course in Florida, along with Pennbrooke Fairways, Diamond Players Club, and Citrus Hills, all located in Florida.

Since opening in 2007, Jack Frost National has been credited with quite a few accolades, some of which include Top 20 New Course 2009 by *Golfweek* and being named a Top 10 Course to Play in PA 2010 by *Golfweek*. Jack Frost is designed with five sets of tees ranging from 5129 yards all the way up to 7256 yards for the daring. With all the elevation changes in the area, the course was designed with no blind shots, which takes a bit of doing considering the rocky terrain.

The course is managed by Billy Casper Golf which has a few courses in Pennsylvania in its portfolio. Bryan Nuss is the superintendent and has been there since the grow in started in 2005. Bryan started at Pocono Farms C.C. as the assistant superintendent and then moved on to be the superintendent at Timber Trails G.C. before coming to Jack Frost National.

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President's Message.....

This is shaping up to be an interesting summer in Northeast Pennsylvania. Temperatures have been bordering near the 90's for the last few weeks. Rain fall in some areas has been scarce. We have seen less than 2" of rainfall since June 1 in parts of the Clarks Summit area.

The July meeting is right around the corner. Hopefully, the weather will give us a break and allow us to take some time and enjoy the company of our colleagues. The Annual Meeting will be next month during the Clambake. If any of you have any desire to be on the Board of Directors, please contact me directly. The meeting and election will take place at next month's meeting. We will also be announcing our Scholarship winners early next month.

Hang in there. Football season is right around the corner.

Greg Boring

Editor's Notes.....

Well it's July.....the month where everyone starts to question why we do what we do. Overall, the year's been manageable. Let's hope it stays that way.

Reprinting a great article from the USGA on green speed that has been making the rounds on social media.

Keep sending those pictures.....

Brian Bachman



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Why Can't Green Speeds Remain Constant?

Fri Jun 17 05:34:00 EDT 2016
From the USGA



It's a beautiful fall day with cool temperatures and low humidity; you are playing golf and marveling at the condition of the course, particularly the pace of the putting greens. Some golfers might be inclined to just enjoy the moment. Others will wonder why the greens can't play like this all the time. There are a myriad of variables that affect turfgrass growth and putting green speed; and, what is possible to achieve at one time of year under certain conditions may be impossible at other times.

Unquestionably, the biggest variable affecting turf health and playability is weather. Air and soil temperatures both have a tremendous impact on turfgrass growth rates. So do moisture and humidity. Rain or irrigation events, particularly when combined with a fertilizer application, can stimulate extra growth. This effect can be magnified under warm conditions with the result being increased surface resistance and reduced ball roll. Similarly, hot, humid conditions cause turfgrass leaves to retain moisture and remain fat, and this also may result in reduced green speed. Conversely, dry, windy conditions can cause the turf to wilt which can reduce surface resistance and increase putting green speeds. Putting green speed will vary from day to day merely as a result of weather influences and the seasonal changes turf undergoes.

Maintenance practices also have major effects on putting green speed. Mowing and rolling operations increase putting green speed. Applications of topdressing, needed to dilute organic matter and smooth putting green surfaces, can initially slow putting green speeds. A day or two after a topdressing application, putting green speeds often get faster than they were prior to the application.

Continued on Page 8



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Continued from page 1

Ripley, a long time employee since 2006, has just been promoted this year to be Bryan's assistant.

Bryan has a state of the art maintenance facility which was built during construction and is home to all of his equipment. The Club is equipped with a wash station and storage bins for materials also located in the maintenance area. The maintenance building is a spacious 5500 square feet.

Bryan has a crew of 11 in the summer and a winter crew of 2. They are charged with caring for 3.5 acres of greens, 3 acres of tees, 30 acres of fairways and 65 acres of maintained rough. The course has low mow bluegrass fairways with tees and of course bentgrass greens seeded with A-4.

The course features a practice area of 10 acres including a putting green, chipping green with a sand bunker, a short game area, and a driving range including a sand bunker.

Make sure you come on out and enjoy this great golf course!!



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June Meeting Results



1st Place

T.J. Hart, Nick
Barry Goodhart, Tom Wilchak

Closest to the Pin

Tom Collum

Skins

Bob Brown - 2 Eagles #8, #17
Tom Collum - Hole in One #14
Brian Bachman - Birdie #16
Darrin Snyder - Birdie #2
Jeff Smolha - Birdie #12

4th Place

Jeff Smolha, Darrin Snyder

Closest to the Pin

Jeff Smolha

7th Place

Jim Hill, Frank Miner
Jim Green, Gregg Kozar

Longest Drive

T.J. Hart

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).



July Photo of the Month

Remember....when in bear country, close your windows if you have food in the truck!!

Thanks Les Lear for this gem of a picture!!



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The same often is true of vertical mowing and brushing. Practices that stand the turf up aid in controlling the development of grain and can improve the quality of cut, but these practices can slow putting green speed for a day or two before stimulating an increase.

Many other factors affect turfgrass growth. Growing environments, soil conditions, and applications of plant growth regulators, plant protectants, and fertilizer are just a few. Anything that affects turf growth is likely to affect putting green speed. Golf course superintendents constantly juggle maintenance practices with the weather to maximize playability and maintain consistency. Despite our scientific training, modern equipment and experience, it is impossible to maintain a consistent putting green speed every day of the season.

The question is, why would we want golf courses to play the same way every day? Adjusting one's game to the conditions and varying setup are some of golf's greatest attractions. Golf courses cost a lot to maintain, and if consistency is so important, a cheaper alternative would be to move the game indoors. Golfers could use simulators and hit off of artificial surfaces into nets in climate controlled environments. This would ensure absolute consistency and eliminate the variable effects that come from wind, rain, temperature, maintenance practices, course set up, etc.

Fortunately, most golfers believe that playing the game outside in a natural setting is part of golf's charm. Varying how courses play through setup and having to adjust one's game based on the weather and playing conditions makes the game infinitely interesting and challenging. Rather than considering green speed and other aspects of playability as factors that should be kept as constant as possible, look at their changing effects as a blessing that continually adds interest and new challenge to a wonderful game.



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POCONO ROUNDUP

In Memory

As a reminder, the August meeting at Glenmaura National will be held in Jim MacLaren's memory.


Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the Pocono Turfgrass Scholarship in Jim's name, can send a check payable to PTGA, c/o Melinda Wisnosky, 309 Terrace Avenue, Harding, PA 18643. Please note on the check that the contribution to the scholarship is being made in Jim's name. The total amount contributed will be announced at the August meeting.

PTGA SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------|---|
| July 19 | PTGA Meeting @ Jack Frost National |
| Aug 2-3 | Rutgers Field Days |
| Aug 10-11 | PSU Field Days |
| Aug 15 | PTGA Annual Meeting and Clambake Glenmaura National Meeting to be held in Memory of Jim MacLaren |
| Sept | PTGA Meeting @ Mount Airy |
| Oct | PTGA Meeting @ Blue Ridge Trail |

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