



CHIPS & PUTTS

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May Meeting Reading Country Club *Host: Brian Ahrens*

Our May meeting is a joint outing with the Central PGCSA at Reading Country Club. The Club was formed in 1922 and began construction in 1923 under the design of early American architect Alexander Findlay of Scotland. Known as the father of American Golf, Findlay's brush would stroke many layouts during the same era of great course design. Despite the age of the course, Reading still boasts one of Findlay's most intact layouts.

Over the years, especially mid-century, Reading was one of the premier clubs outside of Philadelphia, hosting several professional tournaments and even a Ryder Cup Challenge match in 1953. The tight fairways, rolling hills and postage stamp greens have challenged the game's best including Snead, Middlecoff, and former Reading Pro Byron Nelson. Notable locals, Chip Lutz and Betsy King, also played many of their early rounds at Reading C.C.

A true "shot-makers" course, Reading measures a mere 6,162 yards from the tips, but its forced carries and lengthy par 3's can challenge even the best golfers. A true pleasure to play for the wise golfer who stays in the fairway and below the pins, The Reading Country Club is a jewel of early American golf.

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President's Message.....

It seems to be feast or famine this spring in Northeast Pennsylvania. We went from having a very warm March, a dry April, and May seems like we may need to build an arc. But at least most of us are well ahead of where we've been the past two seasons. I, for one, have loved the early start to the season.

Last month's meeting at Mahoning Valley was a great event. Those back nine greens are as challenging as they come. I thank everyone who attended and give a big thank you to Brian Cross and the entire staff at Mahoning Valley Country Club for hosting us.

This month we are headed to Reading C.C. for our joint meeting with the Central Association. I encourage everyone who has not attended a meeting recently to join us. I have attended a lot more meetings in the past two years, and it has allowed me to relax and enjoy the company of my fellow colleagues.

We hope to see you next week at Reading.

Greg Boring

Editor's Notes.....

The typical Pennsylvania spring roller coaster has been quite a ride so far.....70 degree days in March, snow and 20 degree mornings in April. Even the forsythia were confused. Thankfully it has started to even out a little in May.

The first meeting of the year was a blast as Brian Cross and his crew had Mahoning Valley C.C. in great shape and the weather was about the best day this spring.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming joint meeting with Reading C.C., which is another great venue. The golf format for the day will be a Shamble. See you there!

Brian Bachman



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Pocono Turfgrass Association 2016 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, 2016**. 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, 2016**. 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:

Greg Boring
Country Club of Scranton
P. O. Box 269
Clarks Summit, PA 18411





COURSE CARE

A Spring With Four Seasons

April 14, 2016

By Addison Barden, USGA agronomist, Northeast Region



The wacky weather during March may have actually been good for golf courses. In early March, all signs pointed to an early, abnormally warm spring. After consecutive bitterly cold springs, an early start to the golf season was a welcomed prospect for many golf facilities. Spring also is an important time for maintenance staffs to perform special projects and cultural practices. These projects could have been very difficult to complete if golfer-friendly weather had persisted. However, the mix of warm and rainy days has created lulls in rounds, giving golf course superintendents uninterrupted opportunities to complete important spring work. The mixed weather this spring ended up being a fair trade-off between golfers and superintendents.

This spring's variable weather has affected several seasonal agronomic issues:

Annual Bluegrass Weevil (ABW):

Active ABW adults have been found throughout the region. However, conditions are not yet optimum for aduaticide applications in much of the Northeast Region. Continue to monitor forsythia bloom in conjunction with active adult ABW sampling. When forsythia bloom is at half green and half gold and air temperatures are conducive for adult movement – i.e., warmer than 50 degrees Fahrenheit – aduaticide applications can be made.

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After receiving his B.S. of Agronomy from Penn State in 1992, Brian Ahrens spent two years at Galen Hall Golf Club before arriving at the Reading Country Club in March of 1994 as the Assistant Superintendent. Named the Interim Superintendent in August of the same year, he was promoted to the full time superintendent position in January 1995, and holds the same position today.

Brian married his wife Christy in September of 1995 and over the next few years welcomed three children; Hunter, Maryn, and Tucker. Aside from the busy family life, Brian enjoys hunting, playing golf and taking in the occasional rock concert.

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April Meeting Results



Mahoning Valley G.C.

1st Place - Chuck DeAngelo & Jim G.
2nd Place - Lee Kozsey & Tom Wilchak
3rd Place - Greg Boring & Tom Wilchak

Closest to the Pin #13 - Steve Chirip
Closest to the Pin #16 - Jim Hill
Closest to the Pin #4 - Ron Garrison

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).



May Photo of the Month

This months edition of "What's wrong with this picture?"

Ah, the joy of new employees. Good news is that he got done mowing really fast and didn't even have to dump his bucket!!

Thanks for the picture from the guys at Glen Oak C.C.

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.....Continued from page 4

Aeration:

Recovery has been slow for courses that already performed putting green aeration. Despite a few warm days, soil temperatures are not warm enough for active turf growth. Unfortunately, the only catalyst for recovery will be warmer soil temperatures. Making additional fertilizer applications in an attempt to promote growth may only cause more problems once soil temperatures warm. Patience is important during unpredictable springs.

Turfgrass Slow to Grow:

Some cool-season turfgrasses, such as bentgrass, have been slow to emerge from winter dormancy. On the other hand, bermudagrass was actively growing as far north as Philadelphia, but growth has dramatically slowed with the return of cooler weather. Again, remain patient with turf growth until consistently warmer weather arrives. After all, it is only April.

Bentgrass Injury:

Because bentgrass has been slow to grow this spring, beware of overdoing normal maintenance practices such as mowing, rolling, brushing and topdressing. Bentgrass is very susceptible to wear injury at this time of year. Be aware that bentgrass discoloration due to excessive mechanical wear during prolonged periods of cool and wet weather is frequently misdiagnosed as disease.



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POCONO ROUNDUP

Congratulations

We wish **Shane Sullivan** all the best in his new position as Golf Course Superintendent at Sky Top.

Please Note:


The dates are still being decided for the September and October meetings. The meetings will be held at Huntsville Golf Club and Blue Ridge Trail. We will let you know as soon as we have the dates settled.

PTGA SCHEDULE

May 11	Joint Meeting With Central Penn @ Reading C.C.
June 22	PTGA Meeting @ Eagle Rock
July 19	Jack Frost G.C.
Aug 10-11	PSU Field Days
Aug 15	PTGA Annual Meeting and Clambake Glenmaura National G.C.
September	TBD
October	TBD

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