



CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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INDUSTRY NEWS:

PENN STATE STUDENTS PICK GRASS SEED, FLAG TO GO TO SPACE

University Park, PA - At the suggestion of four students from Penn State's New Kensington campus, Dr. James Pawelczyk, the University's first faculty astronaut, will carry Penn State grass seed and a commemorative flag with him when he blasts off in the Space Shuttle Columbia on April 2.

PTC WEBSITE

The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council is well on its way to establishing its presence on the Worldwide Web. The Board of Directors approved development of a website at the November meeting, and we currently have a site "Under Construction" at <http://www.paturf.org>. Included on the site will be a calendar of upcoming events, membership information, history of the Council, and registration forms for PTC sponsored conferences. A page of links will provide site visitors a path to other useful websites. Down the road we expect to offer on line registration for PTC events. By early March, the PTC website will be fully functioning, though we will be constantly adding to and upgrading its contents. Be sure to add <http://www.paturf.org> to your list of "favorites"!

Submitted by Mike Smith

Eastern PA links to close for greens remodel....

ALLENTOWN, PA - The Allentown Municipal Golf Course, a popular 18-hole facility built in 1962, will operate with nine holes this year before closing completely on July 12 for a greens reconstruction project. The course is scheduled to re-open by June 1999.

The greens reconstruction is the last phase of a four-year project that has included new tees and bunkers, a computerized underground irrigation system for greens and fairways, a practice green, and a lake and two ponds. The renovation design has been handled by Ault, Clark & Associates of Kensington, MD.

Textron completes Ransomes acquisition...

by M. Levans

PROVIDENCE, R.I./LONDON - The four-company race has been won to three.

Textron Inc. has succeeded in its move to take over Ransomes PLC, the UK based turf-care equipment manufacturer, for \$230 million for the entire issued capital stock of Ransomes.



In this issue.....

- PGA Tour Not All Bad?
- Peter Jacobsen Thoughts
- Faculties Convene



President's Message.....

It was nice to get back to our monthly meetings! Thank you, Mr. Binns and your staff, for a great day. For those of you who missed this day, we hope to see you at this month's meeting at Silver Creek!

Also, a big thanks to our Education Chairman, Gene Huelster, for putting together the GCSAA regional seminar in March. It was a very good seminar. It's too bad many of us were unable to attend. We again will be hosting a GCSAA seminar in 1999. Let's all try to attend.

The 1998 Golf Season is upon us. The unseasonably warm temperatures have pushed this season on us sooner than we expected. If there are any new techniques and daily routines you are trying, let us know.

We are still looking for topics of discussion for the Roundtable Format at the next meeting. Please get your questions and concerns to Gene Huelster quickly.

As always, this Association cannot exist and improve without our members participating. Pick up the phone, give someone a call, or drop by for a visit.

See you at the meetings!

Ronald C. Garrison, CGCS

From the Editor's Desk.....

Accountability. I wasn't even sure it was a word. I looked it up to make sure I had the meaning correct, and sure enough, I did. So if it is a word, why doesn't anyone want to be accountable for his or her actions anymore?

All my favorite toys from childhood are banned now. Lawn Darts were the first to go. Did you know that if someone hit you in the head with a Lawn Dart, you could get hurt! Dah! Now we have the spikeless shoe issue and everyone wants to cash in. The day our golf course went spikeless, an attorney set up office down the street. Coincidence? You be the judge. My most recent favorite is the guy who sued both the club and the ball manufacturer when he got hit. His justification, before these products were introduced, nobody could hit the ball far enough in the air to reach where he was standing.

How come we can't sue the government for taking away our studded tires and chains? Because driving isn't a right, it's a privilege, and if you can't learn to drive when it is slippery - STAY OFF THE ROAD!

So why do golfers think they can sue if they slip with spikeless shoes? Because some lady who didn't realize coffee is HOT got millions for spilling it on herself.

What's my point? I love this country and wouldn't live anywhere else, but things have got to change. If not, the next time someone sues, you could be the one to loose everything. So make sure you have indemnity insurance through your club, and next time someone wins one of these crazy lawsuits, make your opinion known, or next thing you know, there will be corruption in government.

Tony Grieco, CGCS



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PGA Tour to use superintendents in media day events....

MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS - The PGA Tour has instructed its tournament sponsors and directors to consider using golf course superintendents in media day activities for Tour, Senior and Nike events in 1998.

On using superintendents, the PGA Tour said in its newsletter to tournament management: "It is a way to get a vital person, often overlooked, into the spotlight, gain publicity and provide the media with accurate information about the condition of the course."

Superintendents hosting PGA Tour events should contact their respective

tournament sponsors and/or directors to determine the date and schedule of events for media day activities. In addition, superintendents should share with tournament personnel, in advance, the general nature of any remarks to the media so that all parties communicate the same, accurate message.

If you have questions about participating in media day functions, contact Jeff Bollig, Senior Manager of Media/Public Relations, Ext. 430, or Kristi Frey, Public Relations Specialist, Ext. 608, at 800-472-7878.

New group fights for the right to walk...

By J. Barry Mothes



WASHINGTON, D.C. - It's a classic golf story for these times. A story with legs.

Graham Whatley, a former Clinton administration appointee now working as a consultant, has launched the Walking Golfer's Association to promote and advocate the rights of golfers who prefer

to walk while they play. The non-profit association will fight to keep walking an essential part of the game of golf.

"This is a political movement in the golf world," said Whatley, a 39-year old attorney who plays to a 12 handicap - "We're quite serious about this."

Softspikes....

- ◆ Superintendents have been among the biggest supporters of alternative spikes. But why should amateurs wear non-metal spikes when pros refuse to wear them? Well, look again.
- ◆ Through the first five weeks of the 1998 season, non-metal spikes had drawn into a virtual dead heat with metal spikes on the four major American tours (PGA Tour, Senior PGA Tour, LPGA Tour and Nike Tour). The percentages were 50.6 metal and 49.4 non-metal.
- ◆ The most dramatic increase can be seen on the PGA Tour, where just 26.3 percent of all 1997 rounds were played in non-metal spikes. That percentage has grown to 40.8

early in 1998.

- ◆ Other non-metal percentages for 1998: LPGA 70.8, Senior Tour 62.9, Nike Tour 42.4. These figures come from the Darrell Survey, the authoritative record keeper of all tours in this country.

GolfWeb - Library, Jim Achenbach



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How Well Do You Know Your Staff?



A survey conducted by Kenneth A. Kovach, Ph.D., of George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, compared what employees desired in a job versus what managers believed their employees wanted. The survey rated the following desires on a scale of 1 (most important) to 10:

	Employees Want	Managers <i>think</i> employees want
Interesting work	1	5
Appreciated for work done	2	8
Feeling of being "in on things"	3	10
Job security	4	2
Good wages	5	1
Promotions/growth opportunities	6	3
Good working conditions	7	4
Personal loyalty to workers	8	6
Tactful disciplining	9	7
Sympathetic help with personal problems	10	9

OTHER NEWS.....

During the workday...

Put Mozart in your desktop CD player. Several studies in the last few years have shown that listening to Mozart's piano sonatas can significantly improve abstract reasoning, at least in the short term. Make sure you stick with Wolfgang Amadeus, however. Researchers have also found that listening to the repetitive music of Philip Glass does nothing for your brain. Not that this should surprise anyone.

Heed the halos. A ring around the sun or moon, created when light passes through high-altitude ice crystals, can indicate precipitation within the next 18 to 36 hours. Even better: When there's a halo and a falling barometer, there's an 80 percent chance of the wet stuff in the next 24 hours.

Cows against colon cancer: According to new research, eating low-fat meals and getting plenty of dairy products help protect against colon cancer, one of the leading killers in the United States.

Charlie says: Eat fish: A 30-year study of 1,800 men in the Chicago area found that those who consumed an average of at least 8 ounces of fish a week were 40 percent less likely to die of a heart attack than those who ate no fish. The most frequent fish of choice for this group? Canned tuna.



Is your cholesterol too low?

A recent study at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center found that men with normal total cholesterol counts but low HDL, or "good," cholesterol counts still had cholesterol-clogged arteries. HDL cholesterol removes buildups of the "bad" LDL cholesterol. "Without enough HDL cholesterol, even normal amounts of the LDL cholesterol can build up in your arteries and cause heart disease or a stroke," says Timothy J. Wilt, M.D., associate professor of medicine and study author. "Your total cholesterol should be less than 200, and your HDL should be more than 35," he says. You can raise your HDL without raising your total cholesterol by eating a low-fat, high-fiber diet and exercising aerobically.



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Peter Jacobsen's thoughts....

One of the most entertaining personalities at this year's National was Peter Jacobsen. If you missed it, here are some of this thoughts:

On the green committee chairman: "You got some guy there and he doesn't know the game, and he's well-liked, and he came from the dance committee."

On architecture: "Why do you want 18 finishing holes? That's why **Augusta National** is so exciting (in spite of its greens). It's because there aren't 18 finishing holes at Augusta. You can make birdies and eagles. The hole that I fear the most is No. 12. You hit it short, and it comes back in the water, unless you're **Fred Couples**."

On the Stimp meter: "I'd like to go ahead and cast my vote for the worst invention in the history of golf. No, it's not the green committee. No, it's not the club manager. It's the Stimp meter. It seems that everybody has Augusta envy. Augusta is the worst fun you could have. The greens are very impossible to putt because they're too fast. You can't build hills and have fast greens. It's ridiculous. You have to match the speed of the greens with the intent of the original design. You can't have greens with this kind of slope with these speeds. It bothers me that green committees use speed of greens as weapons against other golf courses in their area. 'Oh, our greens are 11'. 'Ours are 12, and that means we have a better golf course.' It's stupid."

On golf as a game of integrity and sportsmanship: "The proof is how these gentlemen (tour players) act on the golf course. Be true to yourself, be true to the game, be true to the competition. You don't see this kind of respect in (other) professional sports today. I've had it with pro sports. It kills me (the attack on his friend, P. J. Carlisimo, coach of the Golden State Warriors bas-

ketball team), because I love sports. I blame the players. They did not pass on the legacy of the love of the game. All they're interested in is their money and their endorsements."

On Tiger Woods: "What we're doing (in golf) is teaching the proper values to our children. Obviously, something was done right at **Tiger Woods**' home. Compare him to **Shaquille O'Neal** or some of these other idiots with all this money and Tiger's doing pretty good. I wasn't paid to say that (both are members of the Nike staff). I think he's gonna do some great things."

To parents of junior golfers: "Don't go out and buy your kids a full set of clubs. Buy them a few clubs. Let them be imaginative. Let them learn how to hit different shots. **Seve Ballesteros** is the most imaginative player in the game. Why? Because he played around with one club when he was little. He learned to do unbelievable things with that club."

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Chips & Putts Forum



Seminar at Lake Harmony....

As many of you know, we co-sponsored a seminar at Lake Harmony with the GCSAA. The speaker, Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, was excellent. All who attended went away with some great information and new ideas. I'd like to thank Ron Garrison, CGCS, Darrin Batsky, Bryan Nuss and Robert Brown for all their help throughout the seminar. We had 21 paid attendees. Even though 21 was enough to cover all costs, I am disappointed in the lack of participation from the PTGA membership. I attend every PTGA monthly meeting and get the same comments over and over again: "I do not get anything from these meetings." Well, here was an opportunity for every superintendent and assistant to get some very good information to utilize in their workplace.

As of March 31, 1998, we still have not received any questions or topics for the round table discussion in April at Silver Creek C. C., or for the answer section of the *Chips & Putts* newsletter. So again, here's the address to send your questions or topics: Gene Huelster, 7000 Lake Road, Tobyhanna, PA 18466, or e-mail me at turfman.ezaccess.net. Remember, these ideas will not work without your participation.

The education committee has developed a strong program for this year's PTGA monthly meetings. We are in the process of finalizing the last speaker, so keep your eyes open for the upcoming schedule. See you at Silver Creek!

Gene Huelster

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Faculty convenes....

EDUCATION - Be sure to check out the GCSAA faculty discussion threads on GCSAA's WebSite at www.gcsaa.org. These faculty discussions give you a chance to talk about GCSAA seminars or ask questions related to the instructors' areas of interest.

Several GCSAA faculty members representing a variety of areas of expertise, are participating. Each week two faculty members will begin a thread in the discussion forum that best fits their seminar content (either "Talking turf," "Talking it over" or "Shop talk"). They will then monitor the discussion on a daily basis to answer questions as quickly as possible. Planned discussion topics include turf-related subjects, business principles and technician training, but will largely be guided by members' questions.

Don't miss this opportunity. Through your feedback, instructors will be able to better address member needs in future seminar presentations.

You'll find the week's featured instructors and topics, as well as a list of who's next on the rotation, on the "What's New" page in the members-only section. If you have any questions about the discussion forums, please contact the Education Department at 800-472-7878, Ext. 474.

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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



1998 PTGA MEETING SITES

April 20, 1998 - Silver Creek Country Club
Host: Tony Grieco, CGCS

May 20, 1998 - Berwick Country Club
Host: Jason Barndt

June 23, 1998 - C. C. at Woodloch Springs
Host: Mark Eisele

July 7, 1998 - Shawnee Inn and C. C.
Host: Steven Taggart

August 1998 - Blue Ridge Country Club
Host: Paul E. Weiss, Jr.

September 1998 - Delaware Water Gap
Host: Charles LaBar

October 19, 1998 - Fox Hill Country Club
Host: Ron Garrison, CGCS

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Superintendent Profile

A good time was had by all at Schuylkill C. C.; even Kelly Kressler managed to have fun despite his "injury". Natt Binns and his staff did a great job preparing the course so early in the season. When was the last Pocono meeting to have weather like that in March? Apparently not everyone's game was in as good shape as the golf course. There were no Net scores in the 60's, but some fine scores for March. Rich Patterson won low Net with a 71, Rich Pang was second with a 72 and third went to Kelly Morgan with a 73. Tony Grieco got low Gross with 77. Thanks again, Natt, for a great meeting.

This month we head to Silver Creek C.C. where Tony Grieco is the golf course superintendent. As you can tell by last month's score, Tony has been working and playing on golf courses since he was 15. Despite growing up in Ohio, Tony attended Penn State's Turf program in 1983 and '84. His first superintendent's job came in 1989, and after a short stint on the Eastern Shore, he landed back in Pennsylvania at Silver Creek. He has been there for the last four years. Silver

Creek C. C. is a 27-hole facility, 18 of which were designed by Donald Ross. It was built in 1947 by Bethlehem Steel, then sold to the membership in 1976. When we asked Tony the highlight of his career, he stated, "It would have to be the superintendents that I have worked for. Terry Bonar, Marsh Benson, Tim Heirs are all considered tops in the field. Of course there is John Chassard, just as brilliant, but his true genius probably won't be understood until long after he's gone."

When not on the golf course, Tony enjoys anything that has to do with health or the great outdoors. He is married to Brooke, and although they don't have any kids, they make up for it with four dogs and a cat.

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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Superintendent Changes:

Jeff Peters is the new superintendent at Wild Pines.
Robert Price is the new superintendent at Four Seasons Golf Course.
Eric Reed is the new superintendent at Valley Country Club. Eric comes from Stow, Ohio.
Hal Sprague has accepted the superintendent's position at The Granite in New York.

Congratulations & Best of Luck to you all!

The Nike Tournament will be held at The Center Valley Club on June 15 through June 21.

Congratulations also go out to:

Kelly Kressler and Jim Vedomski for completing their first year at Rutgers, and...

Tom McLean who graduated from Rutgers.

FIRE!!

The Golf Course Maintenance Building at **Buck Hill Falls C.C.** burned to the ground Sunday night, March 29. If anyone wishes to help Fran Davitt, Golf Course Superintendent, by lending him equipment of ALL kinds to help them get along, they would be very grateful. Call Fran at a NEW number: 717-595-0686.



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