



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Founded in
1936

VOL. 4, NO. 3

MAY 1998

INDUSTRY NEWS:

Penn State's Turf Club dominated the student Turf Bowl Competition at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim, CA. Five students finished in the top 12 positions with Owen Russell finishing first and Ann Paulisich second. Other participants were Art Petrone, Dan Stockdale, and Dave Duncan.

CASEY MARTIN ENTERS U.S. OPEN QUALIFYING

The United States Golf Association (USGA) today received a completed entry form from Casey Martin for the 1998 U.S. Open that will be played June 18-21 at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, California.

Mr. Martin is exempt from local qualifying by virtue of his Nike Tour victory earlier this year. He has elected to compete in 36-hole sectional qualifying on June 8 at Clovemook Country Club in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is one of 12 sectional qualifying sites for this year's U.S. Open.

The USGA was not a party to the recent lawsuit (appeal pending) between Casey Martin and the PGA Tour and disagrees with the verdict. However, the USGA will abide by the spirit of that decision during the 1998 U.S. Open.

Fazio ringing Philadelphia's Bell



NORTH COVENTRY, PA,
Golf course architect Tom Fazio is quickly making his mark on the land of Chester County outside Philadelphia.

Fazio has been chosen to transform the 172-acre Gruber estate in northern Chester County into a private, 18-hole facility called Bellewood. Bellewood will be a 6,877-yard, par-72 course straddling Route 724 just south of the Schuylkill River. A 16,000 square foot mansion built in 1864 will serve as the clubhouse. An additional 6,000 square foot mansion will be used for overnight accommodations and meetings.

When it opens, possibly sometime in 1999, Bellewood will be the second course in Chester County designed by Fazio. The first is Hartefeld National in New Garden. Hartefeld National will host the Senior PGA Tour's Bell Atlantic Classic later this spring.

In this issue.....

- Thinking Safety
- Scholarship Winner
- Other News



President's Message.....

The golf season got off to a quick start with above normal temperatures early in April. It looks like we are into a more typical spring weather pattern for now. But that changes day to day.

Looks like we are going to be in for a real "buggy" season! I was nearly carried away off a stream the other day while fishing! These gnats were huge. How long will it be before we hear from our members, "Can't you do anything about these bugs?" Or how about the golfer who sprays his legs with repellent of some sort while standing on the putting green! That looks neat. Be ready for a good year for Hyperoides/Bluegrass Weevil.

It was great to see everyone who attended the meeting at Silver Creek Country Club. Thank you Tony Grieco, CGCS, and your staff for a great day. Also, a big "Thank You" to John Wendorf from Novartis for the lunches and his discussion on plant conditioning with Primo. The round table discussion that was originally planned for that meeting did not take place due to lack of input from the membership. If you have any good topics, please get them to Gene Huelster for a future meeting.

Jason Barndt is shining up Berwick Golf Club for our upcoming meeting this month. I, along with Kelly Kressler, am looking forward to this first time host Superintendent and golf club. Kelly, who is from Berwick, started his career at Berwick Golf Club. He was one of our STAR employees at the Center Valley Club. I am sure Jason will have everything ready for us when we arrive.

Ronald C. Garrison, CGCS

From the Editor's Desk.....

As a lover of the game of golf, one of my many pet peeves is the lack of solidarity between the principle associations that preserve the game in this country. I am referring to the GCSAA, PGA, and USGA. Recently, I read an article about the World Golf Village which is opening in Florida. The article spoke about the significance of the three associations sitting down together for the first time, how monumental it was. At first I was pleased to see these groups finally get together. I then became ticked off after thinking about how many years were lost due to stupidity. There are many that believe golf has reached a peak in popularity that can only be surpassed with change. If this is true, than so must it be true that change for the worse would have the opposite affect. I believe that change is needed not in the way we play the game, but in the way the game is managed. There must be cohesion between golf's associations for the game to make progress. I can only hope our association takes the lead in this issue and that this one joyous occasion leads to many more.

By the way, you can purchase a commemorative brick along the Walk of Champions at the World Golf Village by calling 888-942-7425. Mention code 1072 for a superintendent's discount.

Tony Grieco, CGCS



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Safety Bingo game can save club big money

By Terry Buchen

LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA - - One of the largest expense items in a golf course operation is worker's compensation insurance premiums. El Niguel Country Club's worker's compensation insurance premiums were draining \$120,000 from the budget each year and course officials felt they had to reduce the number of accidents, provide a safer work environment for their employees and save the course money in the process. More intense safety programs were carried out in each department, with good results, but course officials felt a better job still could be done. Their answer? A unique and fun way for employees to really think and practice safety in the workplace.

"We started a Safety Bingo program many years ago," said General Manager Mike Mooney. "Employees from all departments play, drawing five numbers at 2:30 P.M. each Friday. The club puts \$50 in the Safety Bingo pot and adds \$5 per week until one of our employees wins."

He said there is usually never more than \$70 to \$100 in the pot before someone wins.

Mooney budgets \$1,200 for Safety Bingo every year. Not a bad investment, he said, since in the first year alone we saved the club \$49,000 in worker's compensation insurance premiums.

"Besides the cost savings to the club," he said, "we really have a great spirit with our employees, to really provide a safer workplace because no one wants to get hurt on the job, but especially now with the added incentive to win cash in our Safety Bingo contests."

He explained that is an employee gets hurt on the job where a worker's compensation claim must be filed, the club does not have Safety Bingo for one week. A notice is posted in each department stating that if there are no further accidents or safety violations, Safety Bingo will resume the next Friday.

"We use three different colored Bingo cards that are rotated and each employee's full name, employee number

s	A	98275	t	y
5	18	41	52	68
7	27	32	47	70
3	20		46	63
11	16	34	59	74
13	23	31	53	65

and pay period is printed onto an adhesive label and attached to the current week's Bingo card," Mooney said. "Our insurance company issues an 'Experience Modification' percentage. The lower the percentage number, the safer and better the workplace is for employees, which is averaged over the past three years."

If a golf course is in the 120 percent or higher "experience mod" category, a representative from Occupational Safety and Health Administration automatically visits the property and performs a safety audit. El Niguel's best "experience mod" percentage has been 69 percent, "which is good," Mooney added.

"If an employee gets hurt on the job and fills out an insurance claim, they are still eligible to play the following week when Safety Bingo resumes," said Alan R. Andreasen, former superintendent at El Niguel. "There is a noticeable amount of peer pressure by the club employees as they police each other by looking for safety items that need attention, for better safety in the workplace so the Bingo game is not cancelled for one week."

"This safety program has probably eliminated a few frivolous claims as employees, for example, with a pulled muscle might go home and see if it hurts tomorrow after notifying their supervisor," he added. "Any other questionable injuries were sometimes not reported because of the Bingo game, but not a large amount."

Andreasen said Mooney and some of the department heads do not play Safety Bingo so the other employees would have a better chance to win the pot,

sometimes even giving an employee their card so they could play two cards and have better odds of winning. Sometimes employees in some departments are also rewarded with an additional Bingo card if they did an outstanding job.

"With a sign that lists how many days have passed without a time/loss accident, we further encouraged safety," Andreasen added.

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WILLIAMSBURG, VA - - The ever-expanding job description for golf course superintendents now includes employee safety and compliance in the workplace.

So detailed and technical is this task that safety committees are meeting regularly - making this effort more efficient and lowering insurance premiums.

The following checklist features some of the more salient points accomplished in day-to-day operations on all types of courses:

- Right-to-know stations/employees sign -off that they have received proper training
- MSDA sheets pesticides-fertilizers-all other chemicals/compounds, register all pesticides with local fire department.
- Hazardous Communication (HazCom) Program
- Lock out/tag out program
- OSHA 200 Form - display as required
- CPR training & certification
- CPR instruction poster
- Emergency telephone number poster
- Safety training videos/notebooks
- Wetlands/Army Corp of Engineers
- Federal minimum wage & work laws - bilingual
- State minimum wage & work laws - bilingual
- Local minimum wage & work laws - bilingual
- Emergency evacuation plan
- Pesticide licenses
- Pesticide usage records
- Fertilizer usage records
- Burn permits
- Used oil/fluids permit
- Fuel storage/spill containment/fire extinguishers/emergency shut-off switch/safety signs bilingual/properly vented
- Pesticide storage - 24-hour/day exhaust fan-spill containment-no floor drain-safety shelving-explosion proof light-sprinkler system-heated/cooled-rinse aid tanks to reuse water-fire extinguisher
- Fertilizer storage - - 24-hour/day exhaust fan-spill containment-no floor drain-safety shelving-explosion proof light-sprinkler system-heated/cooled-fire extinguisher
- Safety shower/eye-wash station
- Wash rack-rinse aid to reuse water-oil separator
- Irrigation pump house/first aid kit-fire extinguisher/electrical/bilingual piping proper signage/heated/cooled/ventilated
- Fire extinguishers - - inspected monthly with signature on inspection tag
- First Aid kits
- Eye-wash bottles
- Disposable ear plugs
- Portable oxygen bottles
- Goggles
- Glasses
- Face shields
- Paint masks
- Spray technicians/respirators with spare cartridges/rubber gloves/rubber boots/pesticide apron/spray suits/goggles/safety glasses
- Safety bingo
- Bilingual safety signs
- Safety floor marking
- Safety electrical & piping sign markings bilingual
- Sign signifying "days without an accident" bilingual
- Handicap parking spaces & signs
- Insurance company safety audit
- Worker's Compensation safety compliance voluntary inspection
- Employee suggestion box.



OTHER NEWS.....

Pass the Cloves



Recent research on garlic claims benefits that stem beyond warding off vampires and pungent flavor. Past studies have shown that cutting and crushing the cloves releases several beneficial vitamins and compounds that have possible health advantages. Garlic contains vitamins A and C, potassium, phosphorus, sulfur, and numerous amino acids.

Current studies are suggesting that garlic may reduce heart disease and some types of cancer. Pennsylvania State University researchers have proven that garlic lowers cholesterol levels and thins the blood, which reduces clotting, the main cause of heart attack and stroke. They have also found that garlic blocks the formation of carcinogens, reducing the risk of some types of cancer. More studies are projected to further establish earlier findings of the health benefits of garlic.

On the Government Front...

The Army Corps of Engineers wants to replace General Wetlands Permit Nationwide 26 with regional "activity based" permits. Nationwide 26, which expires at the end of 1998, is a general permit for activities affecting ten acres or less of wetlands. The Corps' new proposal would give EPA and the public more influence over permitting by basing permit conditions on regional concerns. According to Environmental Policy Alert, the regulated community says the new process could require much more individual permitting which is generally a much slower and more burdensome permitting process. Industry sources say the Corps is already overwhelmed with individual permits

and would not be able to handle a significant increase.

Wetlands Mitigation Banking has been established in Washington under House Bill 2339, recently signed into law. The law allows the purchase of wetlands "credits" as a means of making up for unavoidable impacts to wetlands from development projects.

Sun worshippers Beware



Sunscreen helps in preventing many types of skin cancer; however, it does not guard against melanoma, the 10th most common form of cancer in the U.S. According to research by the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, genetic factors, such as fair skin, red or blond hair, and a tendency to develop moles, have six times the risk of melanoma.

If sunscreen does not block the risk of melanoma, what do we do?

It has been proven that early childhood sun exposure has a lot to do with sun induced cancers, especially melanoma. Sunburn does not cause melanoma; however, it demonstrates the amount of exposure and sensitivity of the skin.

Dr. Roger Ceilley, president of the American Academy of Dermatology, says that the study looked at sunscreen use in the 10 years prior to the melanoma diagnosis. "Skin cancer usually occurs decades after damage is done by the sun," said Ceilley. Hence, it is essential that sun protection should begin at childhood and continue throughout life, especially if you are more susceptible to the harm of the sun.

Ceilley also warns people not to dismiss sunscreen all together. Overwhelming evidence supports the beneficial effects of sunscreen usage. To be most effective, sun protection should begin in childhood and continue throughout life.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- ⇒ "Helping Your Greens Make the Grade"
(USGA Green Section Record - March/April '98)
- ⇒ "Utilizing PreEmergence Herbicides With and Without Fertilizer Carriers"
(USGA Green Section Record - March/April '98)
- ⇒ "Super Tips"
(Golf Course Management - April '98)
- ⇒ "A Few Minutes With Jim Arthur"
(Turf North - April '98)

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Patterson Scholarship Recipient...

Josh Gehman, a fourth year student enrolled in the Agronomy/Turf Science Program at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA, and current President of the DVC Turf Club is this year's recipient of the Patterson Scholarship. The Patterson Scholarship is awarded annually by the PTGA to a second year student in a two-year program, or a fourth-year student in an undergraduate program in a turfgrass related major. In his application, Josh wrote "However, I soon began to realize that today's turf field is not simply about attending college, obtaining a degree, and getting a job. Today's turf field involves a career that also demands constant education



Patterson Scholarship Recipient Josh Gehman receiving Award from PTGA Secretary/Treasurer Scott A. Schukraft.

1998 GCSAA Scholars Competition...

The GCSAA Scholars Program was developed to recognize outstanding students planning careers in golf course management. Applicants shall be evaluated based on academic skill, potential to become a leading professional, employment history, extracurricular activities and the recommendation of a previous superintendent and a current academic advisor. Application deadline is June 1, 1998.

Please call the GCSAA Foundation team at 800-472-7878, Ext. 622, if you need applications. An application may also be found on the GCSAA Home Page. (www.gcsaa.org)

about turf, managing employees, and meeting today's environmental concerns. It also needs leaders and people to invoke inspiration in others. After seeing that to be the case, I decided I need to become more involved in not only school, but also my local golf course superintendents association." Josh's application was supported by H. James Loke, CGCS, Golf Course Manager at Bent Creek in Lancaster, PA, where he completed a formal internship last summer. Josh's father, John Gehman, is the owner/superintendent at Butter Valley Golf Course and current president of the Central PA GCSA.

Congratulations to Josh. We look forward to seeing him at several PTGA meetings this summer

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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



1998 PTGA MEETING SITES

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 12, 1998 - Fox Hill Country Club
Host: Ron Garrison, CGCS

October 19, 1998 - Philadelphia Cricket Club
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Superintendent Profile

Results from last month's meeting at Silver Creek: Tony Grieco and Kelly Kressler won the net division with a blistering 71. Great job TONY! Scott Schukraft and Tom Weinert won low net with a 59, while Jim MacLaren and Sean Cullen finished second with a 61. Thanks again to Tony and the Silver Creek staff for the great course conditions and the fantastic food and service. The course was in great shape, even after one inch of rain the previous day.

This month's meeting will be held at Berwick Country Club where Jason Barndt is the Superintendent. The course has a great layout and will be challenging. The first 9 holes were built in 1920 and designed by Frank Meehan. The remaining 9 were built in 1959 and designed by Paul Fahringer.

Jason has been the Superintendent there for a little over a year. Originally from Hellertown, Jason got his start in the turfgrass industry in 1990 when he worked under Ron Garrison during the construction of the Center Valley Club. He graduated from Rutgers in 1995. He has been married to his wife Melissa for almost two years. Jason's hobbies include golfing and ice hockey. I don't think he wanted people to know that he is a big Flyers fan, but unfortunately he is. Oh well, better luck next year, Jason!

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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Bill Rusak, formerly of Glen Brook Country Club, is now the assistant to Jeff Peters, CGCS, at Wild Pines.

Eagle Rock Resort (Doug Witcraft), Sand Springs (Jim Kohler), and Wild Pines (Jeff Peters) are all preparing to open their new venues of golf SOON!

Tony Barletta, formerly of Edgewood in the Pines, is now manager of Blue Ridge Trail.

Mr. Laurel Resort is still not open. They are hoping to open the Spring of 1999. John Walton and crew are keeping the course maintained until the "legal eagles" decide what to do.

Buck Hill Falls is in the process of constructing their NEW Golf Maintenance Facility. As you know, their maintenance building was completely destroyed by fire on March 29.

Skytop Lodge is undergoing a multi-million dollar face lift - new irrigation, clubhouse, etc.

Look for exciting things from Tarriment Resort!

As of April 28, 1998, Crabgrass & Summer Patch is developing 15 to 30 days ahead of normal! If preemergence products were not applied earlier than anticipated, expect some crabgrass control failures.

Many instances of cool season brown patch have been detected. The best control for this problem is "Why spray!"

August 12-13, 1998 - Penn State Turfgrass Field Days
Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center and Landscape Management Research Center, The Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802. **Contact:** Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, P. O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA, 16851-1078, 814-863-3475, Fax - 814-863-3479, **OR** Mr. George Hamilton, Department of Agronomy, 116 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802, 814-865-3007 or e-mail h8x@psu.edu.



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