

CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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Blast: Recommendations for Survival Opinions of Dennis Watkins in Cooperation with Skybit, Inc.

By Dennis Watkins

Gray leaf spot (GLS-BLAST) or Blast has become a significant threat to perennial ryegrass – the primary turf to thousands of golf course fairways. Recent developments demonstrate that GLS-BLAST is here to stay. The ability of GLS-BLAST to destroy large areas of turf in hours demands monitoring attention and quick action.

What we can share with you concerning this disease represents information drawn from independent weather data, disease modeling, and the experiences of superintendents who have dealt with this disease. It is our opinion that the combination of weather monitoring, accurate scouting, identification, and preventative fungicides, combined with cultural techniques, can avert serious damage.

Our experience suggests GLS-BLAST has two phases: primary (initial) infection and secondary infection. The primary infection is driven by heat. The seasonal differences in temperature development greatly influence the potential and timing of the disease. Once this heating threshold has been reached, a lesion is formed on the leaf blade/sheath. Secondary infection is favored by moisture, which can be in the form of high relative humidity and/or extended leaf wetness. Subsequent secondary infections can be produced every 48 hours if environmental conditions are optimal.

Once the secondary infection is allowed to progress unchecked, the exponential production of spores makes control measures very, very difficult. We believe these spores are transported primarily by wind, however, water, equipment, and any other traffic can transport this spore production. In the latter stages of a disease epidemic, the spore production reaches such high proportions that optimal environmental conditions become less critical for continued turf damage. At this point in time, even a low percentage of the spores have the potential for substantial damage. This explains high innoculum populations

and damage in late September and October when temperatures are no longer optimal for the disease. The shorter days and cool nights of early September increase the hours of leaf wetness, which favor continued infection.

So what can we do now? Although there is much more research which needs to be done to better understand the development, control, and distribution of GLS-BLAST, we believe damage can be minimized. The following recommendations have been used effectively to limit damage:

- 1. Learn to identify gray leaf spot lesions, as well as the microscopic identification of spores.
- 2. Develop a scouting procedure, which includes areas of your course which receive full sun in a southern exposure. Fairway drainage trenches with ryegrass turf are also good early indicators.
- 3. Maintain moderate fertility levels, low fertility appears to favor disease damage.
- 4. Do not aerate, vertical mow, or subject turf to activity which would favor the spread of spores once the disease has been detected. Do not drag fairways for clipping dispersal. Remove clippings, if possible, during mowing. Delay overseeding activities until maximum soil temperatures have dropped below 68 degrees.
- Minimize or eliminate any nighttime (Continued on page 3)

In this issue

- 1999 Meeting Sites
- Treasurer's Notes
- · Seven Sins of Supervision





President's Message.....

Golf is here. Are we ready? The equipment is all serviced ready to go, interviews for staff are nearly completed, bids for project and equipment is near completion, work calendar for big projects have been turned in to the proper committees or supervisors, meeting dates for PTGA have been posted and on and on the list goes. You've done this? Bless you!

Speaking of staffing, the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council has a great booklet called "Golf Course Maintenance Employee Guidelines." This covers reporting to work, general responsibility, equipment operations, safety precaution, etc. What are we paying the staff? Available from the GCSAA is a "1998 Compensation and Benefit Report. This has everything you want to know, but were afraid to ask.

What's happening with the Pocono Turfgrass Association? We had a meeting February 23 at Pocono Farms C.C., thanks to Gene Huelster. In brief, I appointed Mark Eisele to the Board to fill a vacancy. The Bylaws dictate that there be 9 directors, and we had only 8. Welcome, Mark. We are looking into selling shirts with the PTGA logo on them. I hope to have some available to show at our first meeting at Silver Creek. Mark Monahan and co-chairman Gene Huelster will be representing us at the next Allied meeting set for late February. Look for the report on what's happening in our next issue of "Chips & Putts". Tom Wilchak presented us with our meeting sites. Our goal this year is to bring the meeting cost down from the \$65.00 to \$55.00 range. Never a doubt when Tom's about! New membership directory will be out very soon. That's a few highlights. You can find out more about this meeting elsewhere in this issue.

The door is still open for anyone wanting to speak to the Board, or to me, at anytime. I think we are in for a good year, and I hope to see everyone soon.

Jack Bird

From the Editor's Desk.....

For those of us who attended the GCSAA Conference and Show, best described as greatest, grandest, humongus, huge, enormous, massive, immense, and overwhelming. With overwhelming being the key word.

My question is: "Is bigger better?"

With the way the conference has evolved, it's so grandiose we can no longer go to the smaller, quaint cities we use to be able to visit, such as San Antonio, Portland, Phoenix, Denver, and maybe even San Francisco.

With the hours available to visit the exhibits and hopefully go to school, it is virtually impossible to get around the trade show and conduct business in an efficient manner. For many, this is the only opportunity to visit with the vendors who are paying BIG BUCKS to rent floor space. Who or what is at fault? Has this become an event to raise money, or an educational tool to better inform and educate. I think the former.

I am sure if you were to poll the people who are exhibiting, they would rather participate in a more intimate surrounding, geared specifically to our profession, rather than be diluted by the various peripheries that have chosen to participate. But as usual, money talks and "bull stuff" walks.

The way things are now, with the size of the exhibit hall requirements, we have only five or six cities where we will be visiting. Won't that be boring!

Next year we will be going to the urine stained sidewalks of New Orleans, then Dallas, then guess what? We get to go back and visit Mickey & Minnie in Orlando.

I'll see you there.

Jim MacLaren



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1999 MEETING NOTICES

April 26, 1999 Silver Creek Country Club Tony Grieco, CGCS

May 18, 1999 Great Bear Golf & C.C. Keith Snyder, CGCS

June 22, 1999 C. C. at Woodloch Springs

Mark Eisele

July 20, 1999 Skytop Lodge

Tom Williams

August 16, 1999 Pocono Farms C.C. (Clam Bake)

Gene Huelster

September 20, 1999 Eagle Rock Resort

Doug Witcraft

October 19, 1999 Bethlehem Golf Club Tom Wilchak

(Continued from page 1)

irrigation. Morning irrigation should be practiced. Late afternoon or early evening irrigation favors disease.

6. Preventative fungicide applications must be immediately applied upon identification of primary infection (Daconil, Heritage).

 Maintain accurate and complete weather records; compare seasonal climatology for your site.

8. Keep in touch with Superintendents (TurfNet), your chapter association, and extension service.

9. Do not take a 4-day vacation in August!

This Synopsis of GLS-BLAST represents an independent effort of SkyBit, Inc. and DCW Consulting with the cooperation of Mike McNulty, Superintendent at Philadelphia Country Club. The recommendations outlined here have been implemented successfully since 1995.

For subscription and product information about SkyBit's TurfSite service, call 800-454-2266. If you have questions concerning this article, contact Dennis Watkins at 570-676-0629 or email at dwatkins@ptd.net

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

From the 1980 USGA Green Section James T. Snow

If there was a general complaint on golf courses in the Northeast this spring, it was that bentgrasses on putting greens were very slow to resume their normal growth rate. Cold nights during much of the spring delayed the increase in soil temperatures, according to several superintendents who maintain soil temperature records from year to year.

Making several light applications of fertilizer during April & May at 1/4 # N/M seems to help in this situation. Utilizing the last fall fertilization program, involving the application of 1-2 # N/M at about the same time of the last mowing, also will tend to produce spring green-up and adequate growth with forcing the grass.

Finally, a fine putting surface can be developed earlier in the spring despite the lack of growth by topdressing lightly and grooming (such as light verticutting or brushing) on a frequent basis. Avoid forcing growth by over-watering or over fertilizing.



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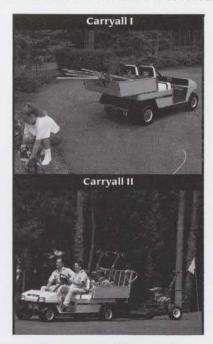
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SAFETY & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In Pesticide Usage

Personal protection equipment, such as respirators, gloves, aprons, and boots should be available and stores near, but outside of the pesticide storage area. An emergency eye wash and shower facility should be immediately accessible from the pesticide storage area. Routine wash-up facilities should be provided near the storage area, particularly if pesticide mixing is done in the area. Spill kits and fire extinguishers appropriate for all stores pesticides should be readily available within the storage area.

All staff members working in, or having access to, the storage area should receive training in safe pesticide handling; selection, use, and maintenance of personal protection equipment. (At least to OSHA standards.)

The manager of the pesticide storage area should provide personal protection equipment, emergency response information, written standards for pesticide segregation pertinent to that facility, and postings and warnings in compliance with OSHA hazard communications and worker right-to-know standards.

The owner, operator, or manager of a pesticide storage facility should notify the local fire department annually of the types and quantities of pesticides stores in compliance with the state hazardous material requirements. This notification should note any typical seasonal variations of types and quantities stored. The local fire department should be invited to visit the facility to familiarize them with the layout and materials stored.

The owner, operator, or manager of the facility should prepare an emergency response plan which all employees or persons having access to the pesticide storage area are familiar. The local fire department, rescue squad and hospital should be given copies of this plan. In addition, the owner, operator, or manager

should at all times maintain a current inventory of the pesticides in storage and keep a copy of that inventory at a location separate from and accessible in the event of an emergency involving the storage facility.

A first-aid kit appropriately equipped for initial response to pesticide poisonings must be readily available, but should not be kept in the pesticide storage facility. All persons having access to the storage area should be familiar with this kit and its use.

Pesticide Mixing Area

Areas used for the mixing of pesticides should have additional precautions. Health standards require that water supplies be protected with anti-siphoning Areas where pesticide devices. concentrates are handled should be equipped with vent hoods, fans or other vapor removal equipment. container storage should be a separate, secure section within the general All rinsates, pesticide storage area. including wash waters from cleaning of spray equipment, should be collected and stored above ground or be appropriately recycled, for example, as make-up water in later pesticide applications.

Editor's Note:

The information on pesticides in the last issues may seem redundant, excessive, superfluous, unnecessary, repetitive, over emphasized, and in the modern vernacular, "Heard that, done that", but how many have — <u>Done that?</u>



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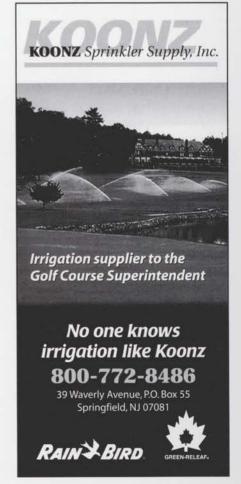
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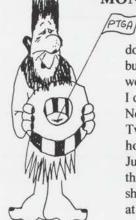
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Diary of a Greenskeeper



MONDAY

Want to spray bad dollar spot on the greens, but the Cushman won't work. Sprayer won't work. I don't want to work. Nobody else wants to work. Two of the crew stayed home and didn't work. Just has a phone call that the junior golfers have a shotgun start off both sides at 8:30. Hung up in the caller's face. Shouldn't

have had that last beer last night. Mowed greens and tried not to notice that the cups need changing and the dollar spot is even worse than I thought. Didn't mow #13, hate it! Between the winter kill and the oil spill kill and the disease, we ought to tow it to the SPCA and have them put it to sleep. Chairman left a message at the Pro Shop to get in touch with him at once. He better not hold his breath. Hit 95 degrees by late afternoon. Late for supper, wife mad; supper lousy, I'm mad. Watered 'till dark. Showered and went to bed. Wife sexy - I'm not.

DISSEMINATION OF FUNDS BY THE PTC

Or, How your donations and participation in PTC activities will benefit your profession.

Pete Landschoot

\$19,885.00

Extension Associate (Brad Parks)

Tom Watchke

\$20,620.00

Weed & PGR Research (Jeff Borger)

Charlie Mancino

\$17,065.00

Fertility & Soil Research (Diane Petrunak)

Paul Heller

\$21,330.00

Entomology studies (Bob Walker)

Waker Uddin

\$17,775.00

Support for a new turf pathologist

Al Turgeon

\$10,665.00

Staff support for turfgrass teaching

\$ 5,000.00

Andy McNitt

Labor and equipment

Dave Huff

\$21,330.00

Staff support for DNA lab

Research centers operational budget and George Hamilton

\$21,330.00

Scholarships for nine turfgrass students

\$16,000.00

Awards of Merit (1)

\$4,000.00

TOTAL:

\$175,000.00

GCSAA Survey reveals Golf Course Superintendent Compensation and Benefits Increasing.

A GCSAA analysis of member compensation and benefits indicates significant increases in both, due largely to job experience and education levels.

Two survey instruments, which did not vary notably, were distributed to GCSAA members in 1995 and again in 1998. Overall, the salaries for golf course superintendents increased 8% (from \$49,269 to 53,205) during the three year period.

Certified golf course superintendents with more than 20 years experience commanded the most significant salary increase on average, at 17.9% (from \$56,618 to \$66,774). Those certified members, regardless of experience, gained 10.4% in compensation in the same time span. In total, certified superintendents' salaries averaged 27% higher than those not certified. Fifty percent of all GCSAA members earn more than \$50,000 annually, while 15% earn more than \$75,000.

The median response to the 1998 survey profiles a superintendent with 10 years experience gained at two golf facilities, with 6.73 years at his/her current position. That compares with the 1995 survey of 12 years experience with a current position average of 7

years. As also observed in 1995, the average age of superintendents is 40 years old. In 1998 superintendents managed budgets and payroll of \$500,000 (median national response).

The salary survey also reveals that superintendents report to a variety of managers/ employees. Leading the list is the general manager (26%, green committee (22%), and owner (19%). Those employers also display widespread support of GCSAA activities, with 96% paying association dues, 91% providing funds for seminars/trade shows and travel funds, plus 89% foot the bill for local association dues.

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NOTE FROM THE EDUCATION CHAIRMAN...

It's that time of year again to hear me complain about the membership's lack of participation in helping the Educational Committee develop a program that is exciting and beneficial to you.

So here it goes. Please help us with your ideas for seminars and topics for our Roundtable discussion in July at Skytop. Send your ideas to me by phone (570-894-8055) or email (turfman@ezaccess.net), or talk to someone on the committee. The committee consists of Chairman: Gene Huelster, Co-Chairman: Steve Chirip, Committee Members: Darrin Batisky, John Vojick, Matt Brown, and Bryan Nuss.

April's meeting at Silver Creek will feature a speaker for Lymerix, which is a vaccine that will possibly prevent Lyme's Disease. This topic has jumped to the forefront of hot topics concerning you and your staff. So please consider attending and bring your insurance cards to see if your insurance carrier allows this procedure in your plan.

One final note, let's all work together to make the Pocono Turfgrass Association the best possible association it can be.

Thank you, Gene Huelster

TREASURER'S NOTES.....

Although we are operating at a loss, we remain ahead of budget year to date with assets in excess of \$13,000.

I recently completed an analysis of our past and present operating budgets. Included was a comparison of other association budgets with member profiles similar to our own. I specifically looked at where money was coming from and how it was being spent. I have made several recommendations to the Board for consideration and possible implementation in the near future.

Tony Grieco, CGCS





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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



Seven "Sins of Supervision that Cancel out Cooperation"

Do you have seven of the qualities of Leadership that justify promotion? Stand in front of the mirror and try them on for size.

Trying to be liked rather than respected.

Don't accept favors from your subordinates. Don't do special favors trying to be liked. Don't go for popular decisions. Don't be soft about discipline. Don't party or socialize with subordinates. Have a sense of humor.

Failing to ask subordinates for their advice or help. Make them feel a problem is their problem too. Encourage individual thinking. Make it easy for them to communicate their ideas to you. Follow through on their ideas.

Failing to develop a sense of responsibility in subordinates.

Allow freedom of expression. Give each person a chance to learn his superior's job. When you give responsibility, give authority too. Hold subordinates accountable for results.

Emphasizing rules rather than skills.

Give a person a job to do – and let him do it! Let an employee improve his own job methods.

Failing to keep criticism constructive.

When something goes wrong, do you tend to assume who's at fault? Do you do your best to get all the facts first? Do you control your temper? Do you praise before you criticize? Do you listen to the other side of the story? Do you allow a person to retain his dignity? Do you suggest specific steps to prevent recurrence of the mistake? Do you forgive and forget?

Not paying attention to employee gripes and complaints.

1. Make it easy for them to come to you. 2. Get rid of the red tape. 3. Explain the grievance machinery. 4. Help a person voice his own complaint. 5. Always grant a hearing. 6. Practice patience. 7. Ask a complainer what he wants you to do. 8. Don't render a hasty or biased judgment. 9. Get all the facts. 10. Let the complainer know what your decision is. 11. Double check your results. 12. Be concerned.

Failure to keep people informed.

Let people know where they stand with you. Praise people properly. Let your close assistants in on your plans at an early stage. Let people know as early as possible of any changes that will affect them. Let them know of changes that will not affect them, about which they may worry.

How did you look?

The Letter Gallery



Letter received by Tony Grieco dated November 30, 1998

Dear Mr. Grieco:

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you and the entire membership of the Pocono Turfgrass Association for your generous donation of \$500 towards the construction of the Turfgrass Education Center at Horticulture Farm II/Cook College. Your contribution brings us closer to our goals of constructing a state-of-the-art educational facility for turfgrass students and the Industry at Rutgers University.

It is gratifying to know that professionals such as yourself have such confidence in the Rutgers Turfgrass Program and are willing to support our efforts to better serve the Turfgrass Industry in the region. The faculty in the Turfgrass Center appreciates your support and looks forward to a long and productive relationship with the Pocono Turfgrass Association.

I will continue to provide you and your associates with updates as the building campaign continues. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Bruce B. Clarke, Director Center for Turfgrass Science Rutgers University

Letter written to the President and Directors

February 8, 1999

Dear Mr. President and Directors:

I want to thank you for my retired membership in the association and would like to tie off the year with a donation to our scholarship fund.

We would like to hear about who wins it, if anyone this year, and a request for more contributions from our members. A lot of small contributions add up to a nice purse for a young person who is pursuing a career or vocation in turf and golf course maintenance.

Sincerely,

Walter Whitney

From the President and the Board of Directors:

We thank Walter for his generous contribution of \$100.00 to our scholarship fund. Walter, your donation is greatly appreciated. We will be sure to let you, and everyone, know who the winner is as soon as he is chosen. We will cover this event in our newsletter.



POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

DATE TO KEEP IN MIND:

October 4, 1999
Joseph M. Duich Endowment Golf Tournament
Saucon Valley C.C.
Contact:
George Hamilton
814-865-3007



Congratulations!



Jason Barndt (Berwick C.C.) and his wife Melissa are the proud parents of a baby girl, Alexis. Alexis was born on St. Patrick's Day, which was Wednesday, March 17, 1999.

It is better to err on the too little side than the too much side.

Ryan Rockovitz's (White Tail G. C.) philosophy on growing grass:

Keep It Simple and Safe

The Pocono Turfgrass Association would like to welcome the following new members:



Chris Butler, Center Valley Club, Class C
Peter Conklin, Wood Stone C.C., Class B
William G. Sablich, Finch Turf Equipment, Class AF
Robert L. Starinieri, Harkers Hollow Golf Club, Class C
Thomas Wojcik, Finch Turf Equipment, Class AF

ATTENTION!

If anybody has NEWS and VIEWS for the Pocono Roundup, please get them to Melinda for the next Newsletter. Thank you.

Don't find fault, find a remedy!



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