

POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

CHIPS & PUTTS

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THE AUDUBON PROGRAM.....

Karen Balchunas, Horticulturist

Karen Balchunas, Environmentalist/Horticulturalist at Huntsville Golf Club, sheds some light on the Audubon Program developed for golf courses in conjunction with the USGA. Karen is very enthusiastic about the program and offers the following information....

The scenic beauty of Northeastern Pennsylvania has drawn many tourists and developers to our area. Although this has improved our area economically, it has also dramatically reduced the natural habitat and food sources of our native plants and wildlife. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP) was designed to help Superintendents establish economically sound land and water management practices that will help to promote and preserve these natural resources that are the foundation of our environment. Many golf courses already provide natural sanctuaries and food sources, especially in areas where urban sprawl has all but eliminated the natural habitat. The ACSP wants to encourage and recognize those golf courses taking an active role in conservation. They also encourage the establishment of IPM programs and protection of valuable water resources through publications, telephone consultations, and on site visits. They provide advisory information and increase public awareness about the positive contributions the golf course makes to the environment and the community. For information on becoming a member of the ACSP simply contact the New York Audubon Society at 518-767-9051 and request a registration form. Once you have filled out the registration form and paid the application fee, you will receive a Resource Inventory Handbook and a one-year subscription to "Field Notes", a newsletter filled with projects and ideas. The first step in the process is gathering data on the course. The handbook will ask specific questions on location, property acreage, elevation, date of establishment,

history of site before establishment, number of members, golf course features, land features, water features, wildlife information, wildlife enhancement projects, IPM, irrigation and water source(s), and public involvement. They will also request a property map and slides, photographs and brochures from the course. Since each course has its own unique features, this information will help them prepare a report designed specifically for your particular course that will include detailed habitat resources and recommended suggestions for improvement projects to pursue. Please note, no restrictions will be placed on the golf course as a condition of participation in this program. All decisions regarding the implementation of the suggestions given will be solely up to the individual golf course.

The next step is getting started in the certification process by establishing an outline of your objectives. There are six categories that require certification in the ACSP to become a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary". These categories are: Environmental Planning, Wildlife and Habitat Management, Public/Member Involvement, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Help is available from the ACSP to attain certification in all the categories.

Huntsville Golf Club is currently working toward becoming a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary". We are well on our way, with certification in four of the six categories required. We give much of the credit for this to Colleen Sundholm, our previous Horticulturist, who took a proactive approach in bringing the ACSP to Huntsville. She encouraged our active participation in the program, not only for the environmental aspect, but for the public support and recognition of our conservation efforts as well. With the help and support of our superintendent, Scott Schukraft, Colleen was able to establish programs that have brought us to this point. Scott is very positive about the ACSP and has also taken a proactive approach in his implementation of IPM practices, Monitoring programs, Water Quality Management, and voluntary reduction in water use.

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President's Message.....

A distant rumble disrupts the serenity of pre-dawn. A quick glance reveals a flash of yellow light and all is quiet again. As darkness yields to morning light, a fresh and clean landscape appears. Large flakes of snow float feather-like through the air, unhurried, but determined.

Winter has arrived in the Poconos and has been accompanied with changes that make our area a year round destination for vacationers.

Golf clubs have been stored and skis dusted off. The hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season has given way to the feather-like attitude of snow. Emerald green is now virgin white. A golfer's "fore" is replaced with the chirping of chickadees and the call of a jay. Footprints in sand traps give way to signs that a foursome of white-tails were on the links the previous night.

Nature has laid undisputed claim to the course for a brief time.

Jeff Peters



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.....

It's back! Starting its second consecutive year, the *Chips & Putts Newsletter* is back, and it has expanded. With the success we had in 1995, we decided it was time to improve upon what we started. You will notice an improved style, a little more color, and most importantly, a bi-monthly issue. We have expanded to a bi-monthly publication to provide you, the members of the PTGA, important news and events on a more timely basis. It was one of our stated goals and we are following through on our commitment. In this issue you will find a feature article on the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, our 1996 meeting sites, and the latest news and views from the last few winter months. The PTGA Board of Directors has been hard at work, and the flurry of activity (no pun intended!) has led to what we hope are several significant improvements in the management of the Association. Have any input? As always, new ideas, tidbits of information, or any items of interest are always welcome.

Scott A. Schukraft



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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION NEWS

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At the October General Meeting of the Association, reaffiliation with GCSAA was voted on and approved. The Board of Directors will begin to address the issues required for reaffiliation.

The Allied Golf Course Superintendents Association of PA will be holding a reorganization meeting in early January. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss By-Laws, Dues, and Direction. In the past the Allied Association provided information on happenings in Harrisburg with Legislative activity concerning Pesticide usage and other pertinent golf course related items with our industry.

An important word from Jack Bird, Chairman - Golf Committee...

Our monthly meetings and golf outings are special to our organization. These meetings offer us an opportunity to talk shop, play a different golf course, bring back a little education and, perhaps, an idea or two for the golf course. A well organized meeting will make the Pocono Association look good in the eyes of the hosting superintendent and his/her golf club and its officials. The key to this success is control. In an effort to gain control, we are requiring an advanced payment for monthly meetings from all those attending. Meeting notices will be sent out well in advance with the following information:

Date of Meeting	Cost for the Day
Location	Directions
Host Superintendent	Speaker
Time for Registration, Golf and Dinner	Reservation Deadlines

All reservations must be sent to the Pocono Turfgrass Association with full names of those attending, even if it is for dinner only. Receipts will be available after each meeting. For those who cannot make it, a 48-hour notice of cancellation is required. Refunding will be done after each meeting date. Advanced payments will help us have better control of dinner reservations, golf tee times, organizing the golf event, and selecting the prizes. With the cooperation of our membership, we will add another level of professionalism to our organization.

PTGA's By-Laws are currently undergoing revision through our By-Laws Committee, chaired by past-president Hal Parr, Jr., CGCS. This revision is necessary due to the reaffiliation with GCSAA. These revisions will create a balanced definition of membership classification and the necessary items GCSAA will require of Affiliated Chapters. They will not affect our commercial board seat. The proposed By-Law changes will be made to the membership as soon as possible.

AND ON A FINAL NOTE.....During the month of December, several GCSAA members were sent voting affidavits to register to vote with the Pocono Turfgrass Association at the GCSAA annual meeting. If you still wish to vote with the Pocono chapter, Jim MacLaren will be available to provide you with a proxy that can be used at the annual meeting. He also will have affidavits available to fill out. This will allow your vote to be cast with the Pocono Association in subsequent years. If at any time you wish to vote individually, these forms are also available to you through our voting delegate, Hal Parr, Jr., CGCS.

POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

National Recognition Comes to Two Area Courses

Huntsville Golf Club and Glenmaura National were recently cited in the December '95 issue of *Golf Digest* as two of the country's top new private clubs for 1995. In the survey conducted annually by the magazine, the panelists rated Huntsville as the second best new private club in America and Glenmaura as the eighth. Can the Top 100 be far behind?

Birth Announcement... Congratulations are extended to Ron and Amy Garrison on the birth of their son, Logan Graham. Logan was born on November 10, weighing 8 lbs. 11 ounces. Ron is the Superintendent at Glen Oak Country Club.

SURVEY UPDATE... Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the Pocono Survey may do so by contacting Jim MacLaren at 717-443-7154.

DISEASE SYMPOSIUM... Rutgers Cooperative Extension is offering an Advanced Turfgrass Symposium on Current Concepts in Turfgrass Disease Management. The instructors, Dr. Noel Jackson, Dr. Robert Wick, Dr. Peter Dernoeden, Dr. Robert A. Dunn, Dr. Bruce Clarke, and Dr. Bruce Martin, will discuss Nematodes, Anthracnose Management, Take-All Patch and Gray Leaf Spot. It will be held on the Cook College Campus on February 27 and 28, 1996. For additional information contact Mr. Richard Buckley, Course Coordinator at 908-932-9271. This program is an **excellent opportunity** to meet and interact with prominent turf pathologists and golf course superintendents.

IF YOU ARE HEADING TO ORLANDO... The Allied G. C. Supts. Association of PA will be hosting a hospitality evening at the Omni Rosen Hotel on Friday, February 9, from 7:30 P.M. to 12:00 A.M. Stop by and have an enjoyable time with your colleagues from PA. This will also be an evening to support the candidacy of Sam Snyder, CGCS, for GCSAA Director.



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