

# CHIPS & PUTTS

Founded in 1936

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 8. NO. 4

Pon

JULY 2002

## Henry Accepts Position in Hershey, Koch steps in at Wyoming Valley

Shaun Henry has accepted a position as the Golf Course Superintendent at the soon to be built Wren Dale Golf Club in Hershey. The Hurzdan/Frye layout, which is expected to be compared along the lines of Glenmaura National and Huntsville Golf Club, will be built by Landscapes Unlimited. The intent is to have nine holes completed by next summer.

Jeff Koch, former Assistant
Superintendent to Andy
Jubinski at Glenmaura
National Golf Club has
been hired to succeed
Shaun Henry as Golf Course
Superintendent at Wyoming
Valley Country Club.



## AARON KRAMER WINDSOR HEIGHTS GOLF COMMUNITY

On Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Pocono Turfgrass Associations meeting was to be held at the Windsor Heights Golf Club. Located in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, the course can be seen from Interstate 80 near the Buckhorn exit. The golf course was established in 1999 and is a Fred Garbin design. A private owner, Mike Dukas, has recently purchased the golf course.

The course measures 4,725 yards from the blue tees and plays to a par of 65. This public course is spread out over 120 acres and has 85 members who play on a regular basis. The golf course layout features a 'links' style with over 40 bunkers. The turf varieties consist of Putter bentgrass greens, bluegrass tees and fairways, with the compliment of a fescue/bluegrass roughs.

The Grow-in and current superintendent is Mr. Aaron Kramer. Aaron is in his third season and is assisted by Matt Cook, who has assisted him since the spring of 2000. His maintenance staff includes 2 full-time employees and 5 seasonal members. Aaron is a graduate of The Pennsylvania School of Technology with a degree in Landscape Architecture and he also had emphasis in turf related classes. Prior to his current position, Aaron was the as-

sistant superintendent at Sand Springs for six years. Before these two positions, his introduction to golf course maintenance began at the Berwick Country Club at the age of 15, where he spent 4 years. Over the years, Aaron has developed the work philosophy to 'Do the best job possible with great respect.'

When not busy at the golf course, Aaron entertains his wife of 4 years, Pauline. His hobbies include playing golf and riding motorcycles.



## President's Message......

It seems as if we have had some confusion with our last two monthly meetings. I hat's an understatement!

I am as disappointed as anyone, because I know the hard work that Tony puts into this Association. For all that hard work we continue to get comments like "The golf schedule came out too late!" Well, here's a solution: volunteer. Stop being part of the problem and be part of the solution. If anyone feels they can do a better job, please contact me. We can always use the help.

The following is not intended as an excuse, but merely what happened during the set up of the last two meetings. We tried to call the contacts numerous times for pricing and were not able to get in touch with the contact in a timely fashion. We cannot send a meeting notice out without any knowledge of pricing. That would only create more complaining about costs of meetings.

If it sounds like I'm tired and cranky, you're right. I'm exhausted! It seems as if the majority of the membership does not really care about the Association. You know what I do, and so does the rest of the Board. We are going to keep doing what we think is right for the Association.

On a personal note, the learning curve here in New Jersey is huge! I have had diseases and insects that I've only heard about. But it has been pretty exciting. I'll see you at Lehigh.

Gene Huelster

## From the Editor's Desk.....

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Shaun and Jeff. It looks like two excellent opportunities for two capable superintendents. Jeff, I hope your transition is smooth and expeditious, as I foresee a whirlwind entry into the Pocono political arena in your future.

I would like to apologize for failing to produce a June newsletter. I cannot offer any excuse other than I always expect to have time at the end of the day to work on these things, and right now the daylight ends at my bedtime. We will add an extra issue later this year.

Eric Reed



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We would appreciate a credit line.



## Control What Can Be Controlled: Manage The Rest

By Keith Happ, Agronomist

updated 7-9-02

With the area's recent period of hot weather, stress related problems have been topics of discussion during recent Turf Advisory Service visits. Dollar spot, cool-season brown patch, anthracnose (basal rot) and fairy ring have been the most pronounced problems thus far. On top of this, now that the summer weather has arrived, weaker grasses such as Poa annua are susceptible to damage from high heat and humidity as well as mechanical injury. Managing a high quality playing surface revolves around managing the variables associated with maintaining healthy turf.

Water management remains the most important aspect of maintaining golf course turf during the summer. Make every effort to use deep and infrequent irrigation cycles when the weather permits. Apply water to the depth of the roots and then allow the soil to dry until overhead irrigation is once again necessary. Where localized dry spots occur, it is best to hand water to maintain uniform soil moisture between irrigation cycles.

Prior to irrigating, check soil moisture. Do not assume that off-color turf is the result of drought stress. Many insects can cause damage that mimics drought stress. Hyperodes weevil, bluegrass billbug and black turfgrass ataenius have all been observed this season. Make every effort to identify the true nature of a pest before control measures are employed.

If the weather dictates, mid-summer aeration can be beneficial for the turf. Solid tine, needle tine, or small tine core aeration will improve water infiltration and gas exchange in the upper portion of the soil profile. Surface moisture levels also will decrease to prevent problems such as surface algae from developing. Minimize mechanical stress during aeration to ensure maximum benefits and minimal damage is provided by the aeration technique selected. Avoid dragging, excessive brooming or any other stress that could bruise the turf and reduce its ability to function during harsh environmental conditions or make it more susceptible to diseases such as anthrac-

As always, if the agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region can be of any assistance, contact Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610-696-4747 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412-341-5922

#### PLEASE NOTE:

ANYONE WHO SIGNED UP FOR THE JUNE MEETING AND SENT A CHECK TO THE PTGA OFFICE:

If you mailed a check to the PTGA Office for the June meeting which was cancelled, that check was destroyed. Please mark your records accordingly. Thank you.



Dean Snyder President

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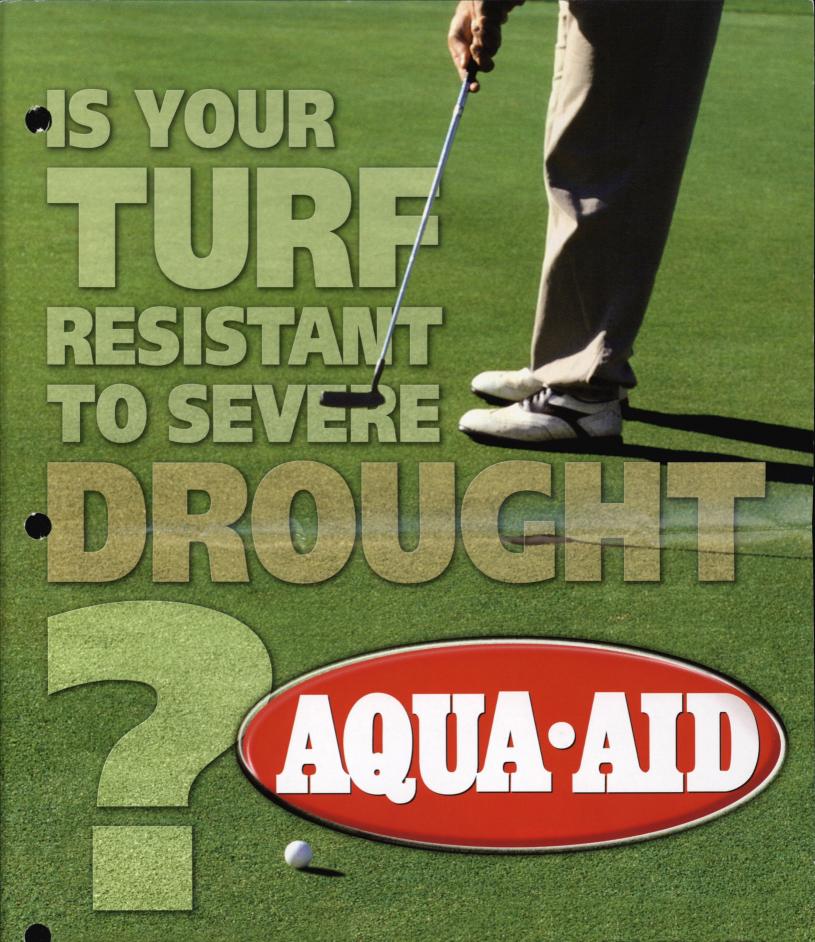


## SKYTOP HOST SUPERINTENDENT

Jeff Siglin, our host, has been superintendent of Skytop for the past five years. He is a 2001 graduate of the Rutgers Turfgrass Management Program. He also is



(Continued on page 8)



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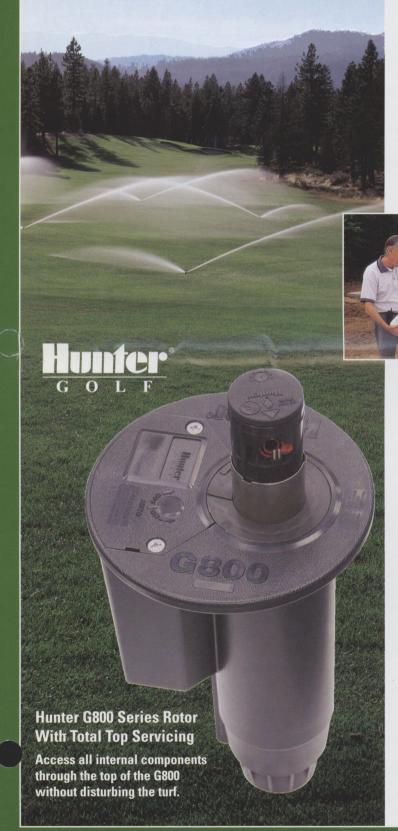
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Mr. Michael Smith, President, Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, presenting Dr. Thomas Watschke, Chairperson, PTC Technical Advisory Committee, a check for \$200,000 for the 2001-2002 allocation to Penn State University for turfgrass research and scholarships.



# Anthracnose Returns with a Vengeance By Darin S. Bevard, Agronomist

Early last spring anthracnose was very active on putting greens throughout much of Pennsylvania, northern Delaware, and in other parts of the Mid-Atlantic Region. However, early this spring, anthracnose has been more of a nuisance than a significant problem on greens. This is, until the beginning of June. No less than seven golf courses have contacted the Mid-Atlantic region agronomists to ask questions about controlling anthracnose on greens.

Continuous scouting is a very important part of suppressing this disease. Once anthracnose is observed, aggressive control measures should begin immediately. Unfortunately, very little has changed regarding anthracnose control. Any cultural programs that place unnecessary stress on the turf should be suspended while the disease is active. These include verticutting, grooming, and light topdressing. If possible, mowing heights should be raised for the benefit of the turf. Spoon feeding nitrogen fertilizers should be performed on a weekly basis to aid in putting green quality recovery and to promote creeping bentgrass. Fungicide treatment intervals also should be shortened to as little as seven days to suppress anthracnose. A disease fact sheet is available from the Mid-Atlantic Region office.

Hyperodes weevils (annual bluegrass weevil) have been causing significant damage on Poa annua in collars and on fairway edges. This insect is expanding its range every year in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Hyperodes continue to move further south and west in Pennsylvania. The biggest problem with Hyperodes is that many superintendents cannot identify these insects or the damage they cause. Hyperodes damage is often attributed to disease, drought stress, or the loss of vigor of Poa annua after seedhead formation. When you notice discolored patches where Poa annua is damaged but bentgrass or other cool-season grasses are healthy, remove a plug of turf to see if Hyperodes larvae are present at the thatch-soil interface. Hyperodes larvae are about the size of a piece of rice. Adult weevils can often be found in the same area as the larvae. Problems are usually most severe near wooded areas, especially where pine straw is present. Adults overwinter in the pine straw. If you see discolored Poa annua, especially in fairways or collrs, check for annual bluegrass weevil.

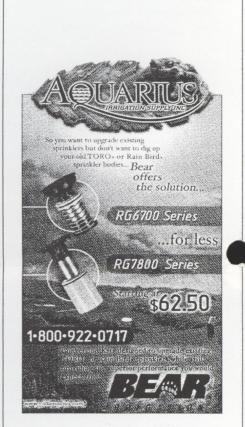
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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



ontinued from page 6)

Rainfall has been sporadic throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Some areas have received two or three inches of rain from isolated thunderstorms while others have had no rain for almost two weeks. In areas where water restrictions have been imposed, signs of drought stress in rough and even fairway turf are beginning to show in areas that have not received any recent rains.

More consistent warm temperatures have perked up Bermuda grass in the southern part of the region to the delight of golfers and superintendents alike. Conversely, in some of the wetter and cooler areas, cool season brown patch has been prolific. This is especially true in the Pittsburgh area. Do no confuse cool season brown patch with anthracnose or summer patch. As soon as temperatures warm and things dry out, this disease should subside.

As always, if the agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region can be of any assistance at all, contact either Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610-696-4747 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga. org) at 412-341-5922.



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## POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

(Continued from page 4)

the assistant engineer and has a license for private domestic water systems at the Skytop Lodge. Skytop is almost a self-contained city, hence the need for Jeff to wear many hats.

For the past five years they have been working with Ron Pritchard on a long range planning program. Projects finished so far include the construction of two new holes to replace those used for the addition of a new driving range. Also, a Toro automatic irrigation system was installed, along with cart paths. All of the above projects were completed "in house" with the talents the Lodge has under its employment.

The highlight of the day was the tour of the new state-of-the art maintenance facility. It encompasses 12,000 sq. ft. and again, was completed by the Skytop staff. It has every bell and whistle you would ever need. A very good place to visit if you are in the market to build one for your facility. It's construction complied with every OSHA compliance known to man.

Again, thank you, Jeff and the Staff at Skytop for a very edifying day.



POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION c/o MELINDA WISNOSKY R.R. 1, BOX 219 HARDING, PA 18643



**POSTAGE** 



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