



CHIPS & PUTTS

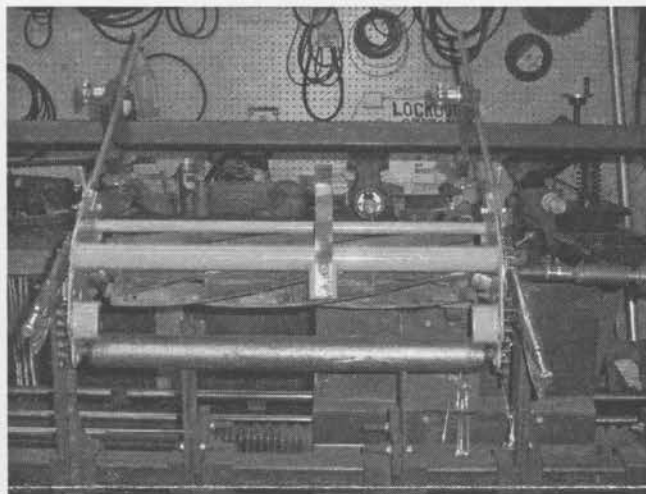
Founded in
1936

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

www.ptga.org

VOL. 11, NO. 9

JANUARY 2006



What are you doing (or What did you do) on Ground Hog Day

Written by: Aaron M. Yoder and William C. Harshman, Instructors in Turfgrass and Agricultural Equipment at Penn State University, www.abe.psu.edu/TAE, 814-863-8124

Here's a sure cure for February doldrums. It is also a good alternative to feeling blue because you didn't get invited out to Puxatawny; and you are just hooked on your shed full of toys, oops, equipment. Then here is a list of things to do to winterize the equipment . . . if you haven't already. And besides, properly winterizing your equipment will prevent unexpected and unneeded downtime in the spring. Remember that following the manufacturer's recommendations, found in the equipment's owner's manual, is the best advice; but if that is not available, the second best advice is to use the following recommendations, at a minimum:

Open the shop doors and start every gasoline engine. Run them until they begin to cough and sputter signifying that the fuel is about gone. Take off the air cleaner or gas tank cap and apply a little light weight oil, equivalent commercial carburetor cleaner or fuel stabilizer. The last few gasps might just prevent the stale gas from turning to varnish over winter. For diesels . . . no fuel treatment is needed for storage; only add a fuel additive if you are going to use them in cold weather.

While the air cleaner is off . . . clean it.

After you reinstall the air cleaner, use the compressed air to blow all the debris off of the engine and shroud.

Might as well check the spark plug too after it is cooled. Clean, gap, or replace as needed. Does it have a radiator? Blow out the debris; check the solution for freeze point, and top off the reservoir.

Check the oil level.

Remove the battery from the chassis and charge it fully; it is best to store the battery in a warm location.



(Continued on page 5)



President's Message.....

As I sit and write this letter I am looking out the window at the sun and green grass, and find it hard to believe it is mid-January. Usually, this time of year, I am catching up on reading articles from the 12" stack of trade magazines that accumulated on my desk this past year. Instead, we are outside pruning trees, clearing brush, cleaning up debris as if we are getting ready to open. It is however nice to get the mid-winter thaw for those of you who did not get your dormant feed or snow mold control out. Of course we all know Mother Nature will pay us back with a foot of snow in mid March.

The PTGA Board has been working on the golf schedule for the upcoming year. We are looking forward to playing some new courses and visiting some we have not seen in a few years. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meetings and hopefully we will see some new faces this year. The board has done a great job in keeping meeting costs reasonable these past few years and I think it has shown in attendance. Hopefully we will never see another meeting like the one we had at Skytop two years ago. The course was great, the food was great, but unfortunately I was the only superintendent who was able to enjoy it. Those of you who were present know what I am referring to.

In conclusion, I hope all of you enjoyed your holidays and are taking some time to relax and enjoy the off season. Before we know it spring will be here and we will be out battling golfers, weather, weeds, insects and all the other challenges we are presented with.

Duane Schell

Editor's Notes.....

My 2 cents worth. 2006 brings us a postal increase of .02, from 37 cents to 39 cents. A staggering increase of 5%. Would you take an increase in your budget of 5%, would your commercial rep settle for a 5% increase in sales for the year. Both I think would be a resounding YES!

That is an interesting thing a 2 cent increase. I can't think of the last time I received an invitation to a neighbors BBQ, a friend's birthday, or a basket bingo. But for those people with friends this postal increase might just offset the cost of printing those two cent stamps since most people now are moving toward secure electronic bill payment, purchasing, newspapers, sale flyers, and other such normally "snail mailed" items. Even our own *Chips and Putts* is now available on line. Which brings me to my point via the great circle route; do you use the internet? Do you prefer electronic versions of things? This is a way our Association can rein in costs without increasing our budget. Let Melinda or myself know that you would prefer to receive your newsletter online and we will put you on the notification list.

Although if you want to be vindictive you can send articles, pictures, commentaries, and other news that would cause us to produce larger, more costly issues. This would be appreciated by myself and our membership as there are many of you out there with great ideas, opinions, and experiences that would benefit your colleagues.

February approaches and so does the golf show, have a great time in Atlanta. Remember to stop by the Allied Association Hospitality Suite on February 9 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Thanks to Carmen Magro and Aaron Yoder of Penn State University and Rick Tegtmeyer, CGCS for their articles.

Jim Gurzler



Officers & Directors 2006

PRESIDENT

Duane Schell, Blue Ridge Trail G. C.
570-868-8113
djschell@epix.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Darrin Larkin, Panorama Golf Course
570-222-9260

TREASURER

John Downer, Elkview C.C.
570-840-0078
j_s_downer@juno.com

SECRETARY

Jeff Koch, Glenmaura National C.C.
570-457-8733

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Steven Chirip, Grass Roots, Inc.
973-418-3468

DIRECTORS

Rick Anglemeyer, Water Gap CC
570-424-6391

Andrew Jubinski, Finch Turf
570-378-3043
glenturf@epix.net

Matthew Brown, Philadelphia Turf
215-340-5401

CHIPS & PUTTS STAFF

EDITOR

Jim Gurzler
201-294-9673
jim@gurzler.com

Managing Editor

Melinda Wisnosky

Editorial Committee

Jeff Koch
Matt Brown

Past President

Eric Reed, Valley C.C.
570-788-4277
Barley5@ptd.net



PTGA Office

R.R. 1, Box 219
Harding, PA 18643
Phone/Fax: 570-388-2167

Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and/or person quoted, and may not represent the position of PTGA. Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission, as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.

Pocono Turfgrass Association 2006 Scholarships

The Patterson Scholarship for Turfgrass Related Studies

The Pocono Turfgrass Association is now accepting scholarship applications for the Patterson Scholarship. The deadline for application is March 31, 2006.

The Pocono Turfgrass Association Scholarship for Non Turf Related Studies

The Pocono Turfgrass Association is now accepting applications for a non-turf related field of study scholarship

For complete application guidelines and exact requirements please see the website www.ptga.org or contact Duane Schell at the address below.

Applications should be submitted to:

Duane Schell
Scholarship Committee Chairman
Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club
260 Country Club Drive
Mountaintop, PA 18707

FROST ??

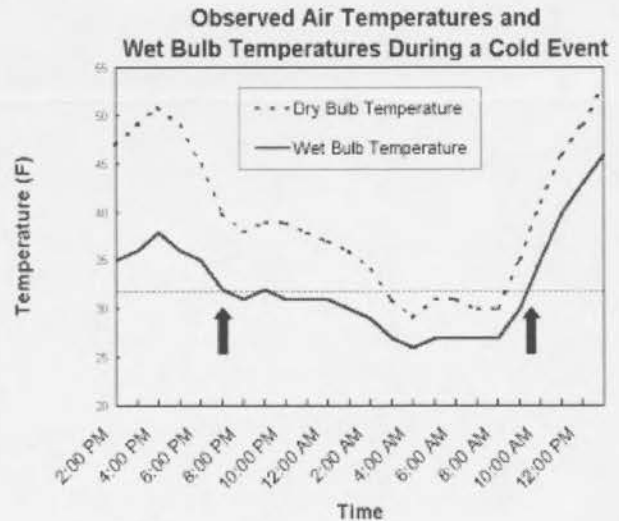
Many of you will be delayed by frost in the weeks to come. Many of you will then ask the question "How can we have frost when the temperatures are above freezing?" So I thought I would give you some interesting frost facts.

There are several factors that come into play when you are talking frost and how it forms; of course temperatures, dew points, wind speed, humidity are all important but the most important one is the Wet Bulb Temperature.

The Wet Bulb temperature is the temperature air cools to when water is added in the equation. We are all familiar with this phenomenon. You feel colder when you are 40°F and wet, than when you are at 40°F and dry. This is similar to how your skin cools when you sweat and you step out into the wind. The temperature on your skin is cooler than the ambient temperature around you.

Wet bulb temperature is almost always lower than air temperature. In many cases it is considerably lower than air temperature. When water is applied to a plant, the plant surface temperature initially drops to the wet bulb temperature, even when air temperatures are well above freezing.

Here is a chart showing the difference between the two. Notice the number of hours below freezing where frost can occur.



Basically this chart shows that the air temperature can be above freezing and at the plant surface you can have freezing temperatures and that is how frost develops.

When you walk on the turf while it has frost on it you will get a bruise on the leaf surface and it can kill the grass plant. That is why we limit the traffic on the turf.

Rick Tegtmeier, CGCS
Elmcrest Country Club, Cedar Rapids, IA

From Turfnet with permission of the author.

A New Era For Turfgrass at Penn State

A Message from John Chassard President of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council

As we look back over the past 75 years at Penn State, it is hard to imagine how anyone in the green industry has not benefited from the turfgrass research and education that has been produced since the inception of the University's turfgrass program in 1929.

The Center for Turfgrass Science at Penn State has the most comprehensive educational program of its kind in the world. This program reflects the quality of the collective efforts of those who are currently involved, as well as the contributions of those who came before them, beginning with Burt Musser back in 1929.

Penn State's research, which includes work in breeding and genetics, edaphology, water quality, plant nutrition, plant growth regulation, and pest management, continues to lead the turf industry. The commitment to maintaining this standard is as strong as ever.

As we look into the future, the opportunities for Penn State's Center for Turfgrass Science and the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council are greater than ever. With the Council's establishment of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Research Trust, we are poised to make new strides and take advantage of these opportunities. PTC's "Growing the Game" campaign is already raising money to ensure that the Research Trust becomes a reliable source of funding for continuous turfgrass research at Penn State.

The Turfgrass Council welcomes Jim Wellen to serve as the first Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Research Trust. Mr. Wellen is working with volunteers that represent all aspects of the turf industry to shepherd the Growing the Game campaign. Over the next several months he will be providing additional information on the Trust and how it will impact the future of research at Penn State.

With mixed emotions, we look forward to recognizing the contributions of Dr. Thomas Watschke to the turf industry as we celebrate his retirement this year. His presence will be truly missed but his contributions will continue to live on. Mr. Jeff Borger has been Dr. Watschke's trusted Research Technician and has become a familiar face at our conferences. We are excited about Jeff's commitment to continue Dr. Watschke's research programs and teaching responsibilities.

Carmen Magro brings a youthful enthusiasm as the new advisor to the two-year turfgrass program. Carmen shares a similar passion with his predecessor, Dr. George Hamilton, for developing world-class turfgrass professionals. We welcome Carmen and look forward in sharing in his vision. Dr. Watschke will formally introduce Mr. Magro and give a "state of the turfgrass program" presentation at the Penn State Alumni Breakfast during the GCSAA Conference in Orlando next month.

In closing, I would like to mention that additional copies of Penn State's 75th anniversary book, "The Grass Keeps Getting Greener" are available on a first-come/first-served basis. Please contact Heather Treaster at hgw1@psu.edu for your copy. The publication of this book was the mission of our friend, Dr. George Hamilton. It is only fitting that "The Grass Keeps Getting Greener" is dedicated to his memory.

John Chassard, President, Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council

Chips & Putts

PATRON SPONSORS

AERIFICATION AND OVERSEEDING

Aercore	Dennis DeSanctis	610.327.3390
Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
E&M Golf Supply	Stephen Michael	800.554.4863
Finch Services	Andy Jubinski	610.213.8597
Lawn & Golf	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Shearon Golf	Charlie McGill	609.466.0666

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Land Studies, Inc.	Mark Gutshall	717.627.4440
Shearon Golf	Charlie McGill	609.466.0666

EQUIPMENT

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
E&M Golf Supply	Stephen Michael	800.554.4863
Finch Services	Andy Jubinski	610.213.8597
Golf Cars, Inc.	Chuck DeAngelo	570.457.7420
Lawn & Golf	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Philadelphia Turf Co.	Matt Brown	484.357.6312

FERTILIZER

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
Earthworks	Joel Simmons	800.732.8873
Egypt Farms	Dean Snyder	800.899.7645
Finch Services	Andy Jubinski	610.213.8597
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	570.839.3399
Harrell's Turf Specialty	Jim MacLaren	570.443.7154
Lawn & Golf	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Lebanon Products	John Farrell	800.532.0090
Lesco	Stuart Hartman	
Northern Nurseries	Dan Fick	610.863.6006
Plant Food Company	Tom Weinert	609.448.0935
SynaTek	Craig Lambert	201.874.7383

GREEN AND TEE SUPPLIES

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570-278-1131
Finch Services	Andy Jubinski	610.213.8597
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	570.839.3399
Lawn & Golf	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Lesco	Stuart Hartman	
Partac Peat Corp.	Jim Kelsey	800.247.2326
Stull Equipment Co.	Marc Shotzberger	610.495.7441

GOLF CARTS

Golf Cars, Inc.	Chuck DeAngelo	570.457.7420
Golf Car Specialties	Thomas Trifelitti	610.409.0333

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Finch Services	Andy Jubinski	610.213.8597
Shearon Golf	Charlie McGill	609.466.0666
Koonz Sprinkler	James Gurzler	570.788.2061
PSA Turf	Pete Coughlin	610.760.2895
Philadelphia Turf Co.	George Skawski	610.554.9366
	Matt Brown	484-357-6312
Shearon Golf	Charlie McGill	609.466.0666

PLANT PROTECTANTS

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570-278-1131
Bayer Corporation	Sean Barry	732.846.8173
	John Wiblishauser	609.774.3310
Finch Services	Andy Jubinski	610.213.8597
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	570.839.3399
Harrell's Turf Specialty	Jim MacLaren	570.443.7154
Lawn & Golf	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Lesco	Stuart Hartman	
Northern Nurseries	Dan Fick	610.863.6006
Premier Turf Solutions	Joe Sellers	484.678.2809
Syngenta	Lee A. Kozsey	610.861.8174

SEED & SOD

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
AT Sales	Chip Presendofner	215.886.6011
Finch Services	Andy Jubinski	610.213.8597
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	570.839.3399
Lawn & Golf	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Northern Nurseries	Dan Fick	610.863.6006
Harrell's Turf Specialty	Jim MacLaren	570.443.7154
Stull Equipment Co.	Marc Shotzberger	610.495.7441
SynaTek	Craig Lambert	201.874.7383

TOPDRESSING / SOIL AMENDMENTS

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
AT Sales	Chip Presendofner	215.886.6011
Blue Ridge Peat Farms	Gene Evans	570.443.9596
Egypt Farms	Dean Snyder	800.899.7645
Finch Services	Andy Jubinski	610.213.8597
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	570.839.3399
Lawn & Golf	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Northern Nurseries	Dan Fick	610.863.6006
Partac Peat Corp.	Jim Kelsey	800.247.2326
Harrell's Turf Specialty	Jim MacLaren	570.443.7154

NURSERY STOCK/HARDSCAPE MATERIAL

Northern Nurseries	Dan Fick	610.863.6006
--------------------	----------	--------------

Support our Sponsors - They support us!

Thank You

(In memory of Jack C. Harper who passed away last year, PTGA made a donation to the State College Area School District. Following is a letter in response to that donation)

December 28, 2005

Dear Folks...

I am so sorry to make you wait so long for a thank you note for your contribution to my father's memorial. It is hard to believe his death occurred a full year ago. Your contribution went to electrical renovations at the State College Memorial (Football) Field done by the school district. Due to the contribution you and others made for my dad, a light pole stands high and helps illuminate the field. Two of dad's grandsons, one in soccer, and one in football, have played under that light. Our family thanks you for honoring Jack's memory by your contribution. I hope this note finds you well and that you have a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. (Harper) Trunzo
for the Jack Harper Memorial Field Gift

Congratulations

The Professional Development Initiative (PDI) was implemented on July 1, 2003. This initiative was designed to provide GCSAA Class A members with the means to demonstrate to employers and to the industry their commitment towards enhancing their skill and knowledge levels to meet the demands of this dynamic marketplace.

The following members of the **Pocono Turfgrass Association** were assigned to the initial three-year Class A renewal cycle and have successfully completed all the requirements for maintaining their Class A status. These individuals have obtained at least 3.0 points, a minimum of 1.2 coming from education points, and have demonstrated environmental stewardship by possessing a pesticide license in the state of their employment or successfully passing GCSAA's IPM exam.

Mr. John M. Hollick
Mr. Darrin Larkin
Mr. Bryan Nuss
Mr. Eugene R. Huelster

At the current time, 31% of all GCSAA Class A members who were assigned to the initial three-year renewal cycle have successfully completed all the requirements.

Winterization (continued from page 1)

Grease the equipment.
Change the oil.
Check the tire pressure.
Paint all scratched or bare metal surfaces.
Lock up the tool crib.
Check to see if pesticides are still setting where they could freeze and move them where there is some heat and security.

Plug in the diesel engine block heater if that equipment might come out for winter use.

And finally . . . Get out of the shop and go to a Superbowl party. Then when some hung-over friend asks, "What did you do last night?" You can say, "I winterized the turf equipment; hopefully for OT pay!"



Superior Products for the Turf & Horticultural Professional

Bob Seltzer

165 North Center Street * Fredricksburg, Pa 17026
610-704-4756 * fax 717-865-4712

www.synateksolutions.com

SynaTek
The Turf Solutions People

Craig Lambert

Technical Sales Representative

251 Schoolhouse Road • Suite 4

Souderton, PA 18964-2416

Main Office: 888-408-5433

Home Office: 973-663-3368

Cell: 201-874-7383 • Fax: 973-663-4734

clambert@synateksolutions.com



Make sure all sprayers are drained and properly winterized.

POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Greg and Amanda Boring on the birth of their son.

Congratulations also to Jason and Melissa Barndt of Mahoning Valley CC on the birth of their son Noah Jack Barndt on Dec 21st.

Welcome to Carl Jaeger, CGCS who has taken the position of Superintendent at Stone Meadows Golf Club formally known as Alfortene Golf Links.

Congratulations to Paul James on his appointment to Superintendent at Sand Springs Golf Course in Drums, PA

Upcoming Events

POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION WINTER SKI MEETING

January 27, 2006
Elk Mountain, Union Dale, PA

GCSAA EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

February 6-11, 2006
Atlanta, GA

Allied Association Hospitality Suite

February 9, 2006 @ 7 pm
Hyatt Regency Hotel

Harrell's Turf Specialty Winter Meeting

February 20, 2006
The Galleria at Split Rock
Lake Harmony, PA



TURF EQUIPMENT
MATT BROWN
MOBILE: 484-357-6312

IRRIGATION
GEORGE SKAWSKI
MOBILE: 610-554-9366
EMAIL: g.skawski@philyturf.com



POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
R.R. 1, BOX 219
HARDING, PA 18643

POSTAGE

NAME & ADDRESS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.