



CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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August 2007



Woodstone Golf Club

Annual Meeting and Golf Outing

Host: Jason Barndt Golf Course Superintendent

Woodstone Golf Club is our venue for the August PTGA meeting. Jason Barndt has graciously offered up his course to host our annual meeting and our 5th meeting of the season. Steve Randall of the GCSAA chapter relations will be on hand as our speaker as well.

Construction began on Woodstone Golf Club in the fall of 1997 and it opened in May of 2000. Ault & Clark did the original design of this property which is located at the foot of the Blue Mountain in Danielsville, PA. This course has many views of the mountains that surround this undulating property which features a Par 72, 7000 yard layout that is sure to be a test. The course has 4 sets of tees, a course rating of 74, and a slope of 140.

The layout is comprised of 3 ½ acres of tees, 3 ½ acres of greens, and 22 acres of fairways, all of which are bentgrass. There are another 60 acres of maintained rough around the property, as well. The club has a driving range, tennis courts, and golf simulator to offer additional benefits to the membership of 290. Woodstone typically does around 17,000 annually.

Jason made his return to Woodstone as superintendent in the fall of 2006 and has been busy grading the 17th fairway and adding a pond to the 8th hole to help alleviate some drainage issues. Since opening in 2000, extensive tree work has been done to help improve golf playability around the course. Prior to Woodstone Golf Club, Jason had been superintendent at Berwick Golf Club and also Mahoning Valley Country Club. Jason is a 1995 graduate of the Rutgers Professional Turfgrass Management Program.

(Continued on page 3)



President's Message.....

As I open the Sunday paper, I see flyers for back to school supplies. This is a sure sign that fall is coming. This is a great time of year for our courses to recover from all the summer stress. All in all, it was not a very bad year agronomically. The early part of the summer was quite dry with low humidity. I am sure most of us had a pretty good inventory of chemicals going into the heart of the summer. Then the thunderstorms began to hit. Some of you that I spoke with were receiving regular rain while others were extremely dry. I am sure all of the sales people out there were smiling when we were getting rain at 8:00 p.m. with low evening temps in the upper 60's to low 70's. Good for their bottom-line not good for us superintendents. Like clockwork my poa began to die in late July in all the non-irrigated areas. I know by the time you are reading this article it will be germinating and by our October meeting here at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club I will again have a nice healthy stand of Poa in my rough. Sometimes I feel like Bill Murray in the movie Groundhog Day. After being at the same course for a few years you begin to see the same cycle over and over again. Sometimes this is a good thing sometimes it is not. I guess that is what keeps us all coming back year after year. You know it is coming, you try to control it, sometimes you succeed, and sometimes you get kicked in the teeth.

In closing I would like to thank Matt Brown and Philadelphia Turf for offering the hospitality box at a Wilkes-Barre Scranton Yankees game to the members of the PTGA and their families. I think it was a great night out with the family for those who attended.

Duane Schell

Editor

August finds the drought watch in effect for Pennsylvania, although recent rains may have a say in how long the watch remains in effect. Disease pressure has been sporadic throughout the region but anthracnose and grey leaf spot are just beginning to rear their heads as aeration begins throughout the area.

The elections are upcoming next month, and it is nice to hear individuals interested in serving the Association. The PTGA is here for the members and members are who drive the Association. The turnout has been great at monthly meetings, the night at the PNC Field, and other events, which to me, means that the PTGA is meeting member needs. If you have things you would like to see the Association do, drop a line to a board member or email me, and I will see that it makes it to the appropriate party.

Sorry, nothing funny in this month's notes. You will have to read the articles and goings on to find my humor. Hope all is well in Turfdom. See you at the elections.

Jim Gurzler

PS Beer Festival Nov 17th and 18th at Split Rock. Mark you calendars!
MMMMM - BEER!



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(Continued from page 1)

Helping to manage the summer crew of 21 and the winter crew of 5 is Jon Sell, Assistant Superintendent. Jon has been at Woodstone since construction. He and his staff will be busy this winter and going into the seasons to come working on bunkers, drainage, and irrigation system upgrades to address some deficiencies.

Our speaker this month will be Steve Randall of the GCSAA chapter relations committee. Steve will be speaking to us on how the GCSAA and PTGA can work together to benefit both organizations.

Our annual election will be taking place at Woodstone this year so even if you aren't able to attend the meeting, please take the time to stop by for the elections in the evening. If you are interested in joining the board or volunteering for a committee for the upcoming season, please make sure to mention it to a board member prior to the election.

Thanks to our meeting sponsors, Lawn and Golf Supply & Fischer & Son. Thanks also to Jason and the staff of Woodstone for welcoming us to this wonderful venue. I hope to see you all at Woodstone.

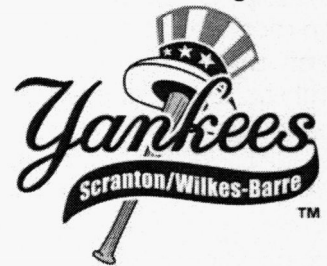
Yankee Night with PTC and the PTGA

Eighty or so brave souls came out to watch the SWB Yankees split a twin bill with the Rochester Red Wings. Both games were seven innings and moved along quite rapidly. The rain that had fallen all day stayed in the sky as superintendents, salesmen, crew members and their families enjoyed the hospitality of PTC and the Yankees in the left field bullpen box.

Daniel Gurzler, 2 years old, came away with a foul ball. John Downer used his resources to scour the crowd and come up with two more baseballs for Taylor and Peyton Brown, Matt Brown's children. The rest of the crowd enjoyed camaraderie and a pleasant evening. The food provided by the stadium was plentiful and there were lively discussions on topics other than ... believe it or not, turf! There was some discussion on turf however, as one would figure when that many men wearing Dockers and wind shirts congregate. But wives had other wives to commiserate with, so all was good in the universe.

The ball games were quick paced with the first game going to Rochester after the Yankees opened with a first inning homerun, but let the lead slip away in the 4th when all of Rochester's runs were scored. The second game went to the home team on a nail biting 1-0 win. The Yankee starter Kenny Igawa was masterful throwing 6 strong innings and striking out 7, while only walking 1.

Thanks again to Tom Dryer and Matt Brown of Philadelphia Toro for making the box available to the members of the Pocono Turfgrass Association. Thanks to the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Yankees for the wonderful food and great seats. Thanks also to Steve Chirip of Grass Roots, John Vojick of Andre and Son, and Jim Gurzler of Seeton Turf for varied donations to the cause. Hopefully, we can enjoy another summer night together next year.



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Inspecting and Cleaning Your Respirator

By Jim Gurzler

Although a nagging cough will be blamed on previous years of smoking and ample facial hair would have required a full face respirator -- which would have made drinking coffee and smoking while spraying in the early AM even more difficult -- I must admit, use of a respirator is probably a very good idea. In my travels, I have seen many a respirator hanging on a nail in the chemical room or on the sprayer, but neither of these are the best place to store your respirator. The following is a synopsis that might be helpful in being better prepared for proper use, care, and storage of your respirator.

Respirators should always be checked for cracks, tears, and dirt before each use. Examine the inhalation valves for signs of distortion, cracking, or tearing. Make sure head straps are intact and have good elasticity. Examine all plastic parts for signs of fatigue and cracking. Make sure that filter gaskets or seal areas are also in good condition. Remove the exhalation valve cover and examine the valve seat for signs of distortion, dirt, cracking, or tearing. If you happen to use a full face mask, make sure the lens is intact and that nothing will impair your vision. This visual inspection should only take a minute or two.

Fit tests should be performed using the manufacturer's recommendations. However, the following minimum tests should be performed: positive pressure test, negative pressure test, and both quantitative and qualitative tests of the fit should be assured. The basics of a qualitative test should assure that the respirator is comfortable, have the proper cartridges and filters, and be in good working order. The quantitative test requires the use of an agent, such as a saccharin solution, Bitrex, or an irritant smoke, and a test hood or test chamber. The internet is a great source for these procedures as well. The basics of a quantitative test are that the person should be able to wear the respirator and breath normally while performing a variety of simple tasks, reading of the "Rainbow Passage," and then passing the irritant test. There are many forms for documenting this annual fit test. These fit test procedures are outlined in 29 CFR 1910.134 Appendix A.

After use of your respirator, you should use respirator cleaning wipes between thorough cleanings on units used by only one individual. Respirator cleaning is covered in 29 CFR 1910.134 and manufacturer's recommendations should always be observed as the first choice in proper maintenance. The following is the basic procedure for most respirators.

Remove filters and cartridges. Clean face piece by immersing in warm cleaning solution and scrub with a soft brush. Add a neutral detergent if needed. Don't use cleaners containing lanolin or any other oil. Disinfect the respirator in a solution of quaternary ammonia disinfectant or sodium hypochlorite (1 ounce bleach in 2 gallons of water). Rinse the respirator in fresh water and allow to air dry. The respirator should be stored in a clean dry bag away from contaminated areas when not in use.

Most respirators come with detailed instructions and the internet provides helpful sources of information regarding use, cleaning, testing, and storage of respirators. Enjoy your clean respirator and be safe.

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9/ 7 NAVY
9/15 NORFOLK STATE
9/29 MARYLAND
10/6 CINCINNATI
10/13 at Syracuse
10/18 SOUTH FLORIDA
10/ 27 WEST VIRGINIA
11/ 3 at Connecticut
11/ 9 at Army
11/17 PITTSBURGH
11/29 at Louisville

Penn State Football 2007

9/ 1 Florida International
9/ 8 Notre Dame
9/15 Buffalo
9/ 22 at Michigan
9/ 29 at Illinois
10/ 6 Iowa
10/13 Wisconsin
10/20 at Indiana
10/27 Ohio State
11/3 Purdue
11/10 at Temple
11/17 at Michigan State

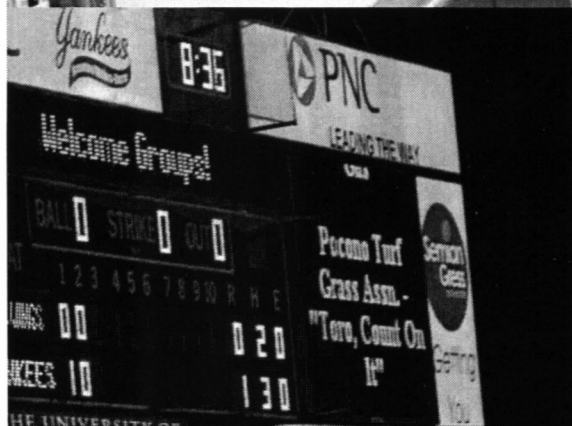
Michigan State Football 2007

9/1 UAB
9/8 Bowling Green
9/15 Pittsburgh
9/22 at Notre Dame
9/29 at Wisconsin
10/6 Northwestern
10/13 Indiana
10/20 at Ohio State
10/27 at Iowa
11/3 Michigan
11/10 at Purdue
11/17 Penn State

Ohio State Football 2007

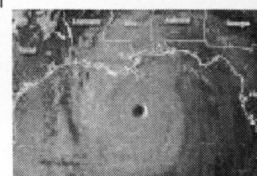
9/1 Youngstown State
9/8 Akron
9/15 at Washington
9/22 Northwestern
9/29 at Minnesota
10/6 at Purdue
10/13 Kent State
10/20 Michigan State
10/27 at Penn State
11/3 Wisconsin
11/10 Illinois
11/17 at Michigan

PTGA AT PNC FIELD August 21, 2007



2007 Hurricane Names

Andrea
Barry
Chantal
Dean
Erin
Felix
Gabrielle
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Jerry
Karen
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Sand Topdressing Programs *Adam C. Moeller & Purdue University*

There are many different sand topdressing programs used by superintendents. Budgets, experience, labor and equipment availability, and play schedule are just some of the factors affecting topdressing programs.

Our research hopes to provide answers to many of the common topdressing questions and help present a better understanding of the topdressing requirements for high quality putting greens. Sand topdressing decreases thatch, increases surface firmness and smoothness, and decreases grain. Insufficient sand topdressing may result in excessive organic matter accumulation in the upper soil profile. Excessive organic matter, or thatch, results in greater pest damage, shallow rooting, poor soil air exchange, and may cause the turf to be more prone to scalping.

The most effective surface organic matter management programs for putting greens normally combine hollow tine aerification with regular sand topdressing. In addition to seasonal heavy applications to back-fill aerification holes, sand should be applied frequently enough to match seasonal shoot growth and to prevent an organic layer from forming. Typically, topdressing every one to three weeks during the growing season is done using light applications of sand to dilute organic matter and smooth wear areas. If applications are spaced too far apart, layering occurs and little thatch reduction actually takes place.

******Although topdressing application frequency has increased, the overall annual amount seems to be declining. Ultra-light topdressing on a weekly basis is not always enough to keep up with organic matter accumulation. It is important to remember that for effective thatch management, it is necessary to match the rate of organic matter production with appropriate amounts of topdressing material. Some greens may require more topdressing than others due to differences in growing environments, fertility programs, traffic, compaction, etc. Cool-season turfgrass organic matter production is highest during periods of cool temperatures (32-55 F) and in areas with poor air circulation and high moisture (Carrow, 2003).

******A long-term successful topdressing program normally includes the use of a material with a particle size distribution that matches the underlying rootzone. On many closely mowed newer putting greens, coarse topdressing sand particles may be easily picked up by greens mowers. Finer sand is easier to work into the turf canopy, especially at lower mowing heights, and with new high shoot density bentgrass cultivars, and a desire to have less impact on play, are all persuading turf managers to switch to finer sands. The long-term implications of this practice are not well understood.

Within reason, topdressing particles slightly coarser than an existing rootzone will not adversely affect long-term soil physical characteristics. Conversely, topdressing sand that is dramatically finer than an existing rootzone may have serious negative consequences on soil physical properties. A decline in saturated hydraulic conductivity or percolation results from the loss of macropore space when a finer sand is used for topdressing. Additionally, a distinct layer forms at the surface resulting in a perched water table. This layer restricts drainage and air movement, resulting in a softer, wetter surface more prone to scalping.

(Continued on page 8)

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Sand topdressing is still an essential cultural practice to maintain the highest quality putting green. Remember, one size does NOT fit all. It is important to critically evaluate your topdressing program. If you are applying topdressing more frequently, ask yourself if you are actually meeting the critical annual amount necessary to minimize thatch and excessive organic matter and ensure firm, smooth surfaces? Analysis of topdressing material prior to sand selection can prevent potential long-term layering issues and detrimental effects to soil physical characteristics caused when a sand finer than an existing rootzone is used for topdressing. Mechanical damage can easily occur if plants are stressed and topdressing should be delayed until the turf is actively growing and healthy. Appropriate topdressing rates and frequency with sands matching the existing rootzone are a few steps in the right direction towards maintaining high quality putting greens.

***Current Research ***

Research is ongoing in the third year at Purdue University evaluating the effectiveness of various putting green sand topdressing programs. Our research objectives are to develop specific topdressing requirements for low (? Penncross'), medium (?L-93'), and high (?A-4') shoot density bentgrass cultivars maintained at two (2.3 and 4 lbs N/1000ft² /yr) different annual nitrogen levels. There are large differences between the shoot density of cultivars and their ability to maintain density during the summer months which will affect topdressing needs and strategies as well. Our research also evaluates topdressing frequency. We are monitoring the long-term changes in rootzone physical properties of a sand-based putting green rootzone topdressed with two sand sizes. Additionally, performance characteristics such as appearance, volumetric soil water content, surface hardness, dollar spot incidence, and moss encroachment are being documented.

***Observations to date ***

Tiller density results were as expected, ?A-4' had the highest number of tillers per unit area throughout the growing season and ?Penncross' had the lowest number of tillers.

Surface hardness was lower in ?A-4' and ?L-93' compared to ?Penncross'.

Non-aerified plots yielded the firmest surface while topdressing frequently with fine sand had the softest surface.

Continued on Page 9



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(Continued from page 8)

Volumetric water content measurements were highest in plots receiving fine topdressing sand, which correlates with surface hardness results.

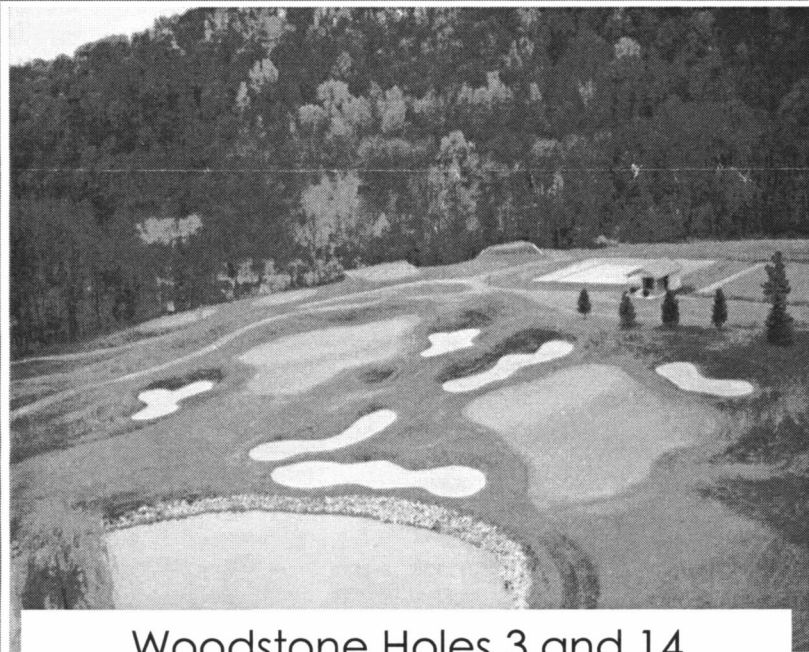
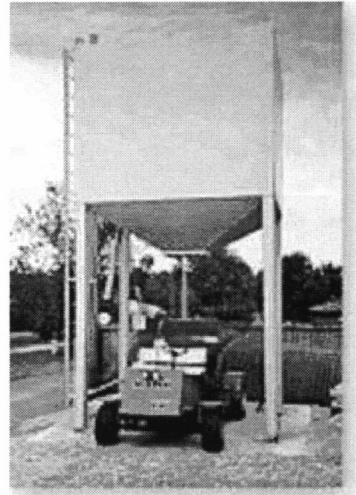
Turf quality was highest in non-aerified plots although they had significantly more dollar spot during disease outbreaks. Plots frequently topdressed with fine sand produced the lowest quality, likely because of higher percentages of moss.

L-93' at the high annual N rate had the best turf quality among all cultivars while ? Pennncross' at the low annual N rate had the lowest quality, primarily because of more moss and increased dollar spot. Among cultivars across all cultivation and N levels ? A?4' had the most dollar spot.

Particle size distribution was evaluated and numerous plots receiving frequent fine topdressing no longer meet USGA rootzone specifications.

For more information, see the research summary at <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/report/2006/07.pdf>, Adam C. Moeller, graduate research assistant, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University .

Send corrections, suggestions, and comments to biehlj@purdue.edu



Woodstone Holes 3 and 14

New Practice Facility at Irem Temple near the new maintenance facility.



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POCONO ROUNDUP

News and Views

Welcome, Brent Wood of Lesco, a new member of the PTGA.

Congratulations to Jeff Koch and the staff of Glenmaura National on the hosting of another successful Nationwide tour tournament.



Kelly Kressler of Southmoore would like to thank all those who offered help, kind words, and best wishes on his recovery. The cards, phone calls and email meant a great deal to him.

Kelly is back at work and doing well.

PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday	Sept. 25	Woodstone Golf Club
TBD	October	Blue Ridge Trail

GCSANJ Crystal Conference

Crystal Springs Resort Hamburg, NJ

Nov 13-16, 2007

Penn State Golf Turf Conference

Nittany Lion Inn

November 14-16, 2007

NJ Turfgrass Expo Trump Taj Mahal Atlantic City, NJ

December 4-6, 2007

Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference & Trade Show

Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA

January 8-10, 2008

Bernhard Contest Deadline Sept 30, 2007 [http://](http://www.bernhard.co.uk/gcsaa_regform.0.html)

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