

CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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Shawnee Inn and Resort

Shawnee on the Delaware, PA

Steve Taggart, Director of Golf and Grounds Management

Lance Heil, Golf Course Superintendent

July brings us to Shawnee Inn And Golf Resort for our monthly meeting. Shawnee Inn and Resort, an A. W. Tillinghast classic built in 1910 and 1911, has a storied history. CC Worthington was the owner of the property that built the course originally called "The Buckwood Inn". Some of you may remember Worthington tractor as a golf course staple; those still using blitzers may even have a Worthington steel wheel somewhere on that 5 gang. Mr. Worthington sold the course to Fred Waring, a famous entertainer of the '30's and '40's, who brought many notable celebrities to the Inn for golf and performances for the guests. Mr. Waring is also involved in equipment used by superintendents as he is credited with developing the first blender. A quick look at the photos in the halls of the Inn, and you can be sure the staff of the Inn was happy to see a machine to help make drinks for the celebs that were known to have a few during Fred's tenure as owner of the Inn.

Tillinghast built this course which quickly gained notoriety and was referred to as the "Gem of the East". The course has played host to the Shawnee open which is currently a Philadelphia PGA Sectional event. This event could be the longest running event in the United States as it started in 1912 and has continued almost without interruption. Those who have won this event are J.J. Mc Dermott, Walter Hagen, Fred Mc Leod, Johnny Farrell, William Mac Farlane, and Lawson Little, all gentlemen who have won the US Open.

Shawnee has played host to other notable events as well, such as the 1938 PGA Championship. The championship was won by Paul Runyan, who beat out Sam Snead for the title. Snead, at the time, was Shawnee's resident golf Professional. The NCAA championship

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President's Message.....

See you next month!

Duane Schell

Editor

Well another month has come and gone, and it seems summer is here for good now. Look forward to the 15th of August for a night at the ballpark with friends. See the schedule inside for more info.

Elkview played host to our group in June and 50 souls experienced a wonderful golf course, a great day and fantastic food. Shawnee will play host to our July meeting and it looks as though this year we will actually be able to play the course. (typed with crossed fingers)

The mail has been light folks. Keep the info coming so that the newsletter is overfull. That will be my groveling for articles for this month. Expect more next month if artwork, pictures, articles or even ideas for what info you would like to see in our newsletter don't start showing up in my inbox. Submissions are graciously appreciated.

This month our newsletter has the information on scholarships and how to apply for them. The deadline has been extended. See the article on Page 6 for more information.

Jim Gurzler



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570-868-8113
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215-340-5401

CHIPS & PUTTS STAFF

EDITOR

Jim Gurzler
570-249-1450
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

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was played here in 1967 on the course where we will be playing. This tournament was won by Hale Irwin.

Steve Taggart took the position of Golf Course Superintendent in 1995 just prior to a horrible flood in January of 1996. Three years later, Lance Heil came aboard as Steve's assistant and held that position until last year when Steve was elevated to the position of Director of Golf and Lance was elevated to Golf Course Superintendent. Matt Siptroth and Brian Hall, Assistant Superintendents, and Keith Walter, Equipment Manager, round out the management team at the Shawnee maintenance facility. Shawnee is staffed by 20 summer employees during the season and 6 during the off season.

In addition to Finn, the goose dog, Shawnee is host to 3 new avian offspring of the resident Bald Eagle couple. The family of eagles on the island should give Steve "brownie points" toward his current work with Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification.

In addition to the golf course, extensive practice areas are maintained by the staff. The Tillinghast Academy opened in 2003 and was completed in 2004. In 2005, lights were added to the executive course so that league play may occur on the academy and driving range during the evening hours. The construction of the Tillinghast Academy was completed in-house using plans of drawn by A.W. Tillinghast himself.

Our speaker this month will be Lance Heil. Lance will be speaking on the topics of flood damage, clean up, turf maintenance requirement to restore damage to the course. Lance has been through major floods over the past three years and will be speaking on these topics from personal experience.

Thanks to Grass Roots and Seeton Turf Warehouse for sponsoring this months meeting. Hope to see all you there for our two man better ball tournament.



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The Bunker Dilemma

Provided by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Nearly everyone who plays golf knows that bunkers are supposed to be hazards. That's how the *Rules of Golf*, define them--"A bunker is a hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground, often a hollow, from which turf or soil has been removed or replaced with sand or the like."

For golfers, the object should be to avoid them.

But for golf course superintendents, the subject of bunker maintenance is often a subject that falls under the category of "Hazardous Duty."

In fact, that's the title of a seminar offered by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Taught by Robert M. Randquist, GCSAA board member and Certified Golf Course Superintendent at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., the course helps GCSAA superintendents understand the complex and often contentious subject.

According to Randquist, the difficulty of bunker maintenance begins with the fact that both golfers and golf course superintendents exhibit a wide variation in how they look at bunkers.

At one extreme you hear, "A bunker is a hazard, I shouldn't have hit the ball here." Or, "Golf is like life, it's not supposed to be fair."

At the other extreme there are those who think, "I can't believe how unfair this bunker is. Even the best golfer in the world couldn't get on the green from here."

With such a wide range of opinions and expectations about bunkers place in the game, and how they should be maintained, Randquist says it's vitally important that golf course superintendents, green committees, private owners, supervisors and tournament governing bodies discuss the issue. Arriving at a consensus regarding playing conditions for the course's bunkers is important, but it is equally important that they determine if the golf facility has the financial ability to provide those conditions on a regular basis.

The kinds of questions that must be answered include:

- Should a golfer ever have a buried lie in a bunker?
- Should a golf ball always roll back to the flat portion of the bunker?
- Is it possible to define the difference between a "fair" bunker and an unfair one?
- How often should golfers be able to get the ball out of a greenside bunker and into the hole in two shots?
- How often should golfers be able to hit a shot from a fairway bunker onto the green?
- Should a golfer ever have to play a shot from underneath or against the lip of a bunker?
- Should the sand surface be smooth or furrowed?
- Do the bunkers provide equal hazard to low and high handicap players?

The answers to these questions make it possible for the golf course superintendent to define the expected difficulty of the course's bunkers, establish a plan for bunker maintenance that will deliver that level of difficulty and develop a budget for that level of maintenance.

(Continued on page 7)

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Meeting Results from Elkview

Fifty golfers found their way to Elkview for our June meeting. Thanks to John Downer, Matt Fronzak and the Elkview staff for a wonderful day. Our speaker was William Pencek of the Wyoming County Cooperative Extension. He spoke on the benefits of bare root tree planting and the care and removal of trees at Elkview. The topic was great, and Bill explained that all the county extension agents are available to assist those in the green industry.

Results from our colored ball tournament were far better than last year when only 1 group completed the round with their ball intact. This year 9 groups completed their rounds with the ball still in their possession. The winning group was the team of Bobby Brown, George Skawski, and Jeff Hugaboom with an 81.

The results of the low gross were as follows: First place Jim, Gary, Gary Phillips Jr. and Lou Dix; in second place was the team of Jason Brown, Pat Moran, Mark Brown, and Tony Kenia.

The skins were won on the only eagle that Mr. Bobby Brown had on the 17th hole and netted him a handsome sum of greenbacks.

The skill prizes were won by Chris Butler, Closet to the Pin on the 9th hole with a shot that ended up 4' 2 1/2" from the cup. (sponsored by Grass Roots). Long Drive was on the 10th hole and Gary Phillips Jr. won that with a respectable drive that landed well down the fairway. (sponsored by Seeton Turf Warehouse).

Fifty/Fifty winners were Scott Kozar and John Vojick. Thanks again to John Downer, Russell Hauenstein and the crew of Elkview for providing a great day.

Thanks to Andy Dumas for hosting our April Meeting




Join PTC and the PTGA at the Yankee Game August 21. Limited to first 100 people. Members and immediate family only please. Contact Matt Brown at 484-357-6312. Game time - 7 PM, PNC Field, Moosic.



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Pocono Turfgrass Association 2007 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 August 31, 2007. The following is a list of guidelines for all individuals interested in applying for the scholarship:

1. Applicant must be in his or her final year of study or a recent graduate of a two- or four-year turf related program.
2. The applicant must be a member of the Pocono Turfgrass Association, employed by a member of PTGA, or an immediate family member of a member of PTGA.
3. The applicant must submit, in writing, why he or she would like to be considered for the scholarship. The essay should include what he or she feels their contribution to the turfgrass field will be.
4. Applicants must include a letter of endorsement from their PTGA relation with their application.

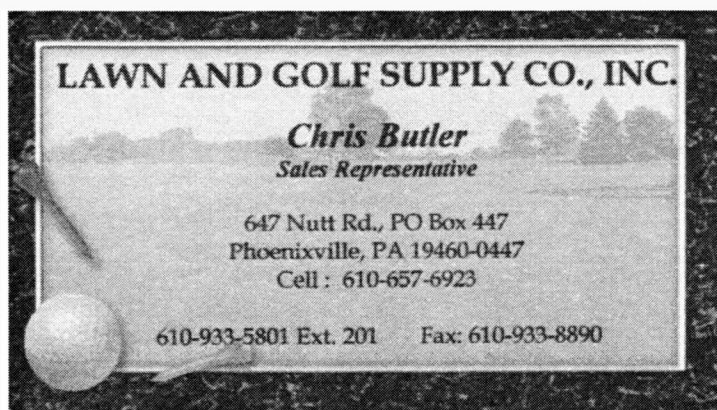
The Pocono Turfgrass Association Scholarship for Non-Turf Related Studies

The Pocono Turfgrass Association is now accepting applications for a non-turfgrass related field of study scholarship. The deadline for application is August 31, 2007. The following is a list of guidelines for all individuals interested in applying for the scholarship:

1. Applicant must be in his or her final year of study or a recent graduate of a two- or four-year non-turf related program.
2. The applicant must be a member of the Pocono Turfgrass Association, employed by a member of PTGA, or an immediate family member of a member of PTGA.
3. The applicant must submit, in writing, why he or she would like to be considered for the scholarship. The essay should include information pertaining to field of study, educational achievement, and future goals with respect to utilization of his or her education.
4. Applicants must include a letter of endorsement from their PTGA relation with their application.

Applications should be submitted to:

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GCSAA golf course superintendents are accustomed to creating these kinds of plans, and balancing the desires of golfers with the available labor and equipment assets. But golfers are often unaware of how many factors affect the condition of bunkers.

Randquist says the primary factors influencing the decisions golf course superintendents make regarding bunker maintenance include: type and depth of sand in bunkers; raking, grooming and edging methods; and, of course, bunker maintenance costs and budget.

The technical aspects of sand selection include everything from particle size and particle shape to crusting potential, infiltration rate, color, and even measuring firmness with a penetrometer. Management of all these factors to produce the desired bunker playing conditions is primarily the superintendent's responsibility.

So, too, are the decisions about raking and grooming methods. Over the years, these have ranged from almost no grooming in the earliest days of the game, to the infamous furrowing rakes employed at Oakmont Country Club, to the modern power bunker rakes that can dramatically reduce the amount of time it takes to rake a bunker.

But if golfers want the kind of bunker conditions they see on television at championship venues they need to understand that getting there comes with a substantial cost.

That kind of maintenance demands a commitment of manpower that most courses simply aren't able to muster. Although there are many factors that influence the cost of bunker maintenance, Randquist says that many golf facilities commit as much as 15 to 25 percent of their golf course labor hours to bunker maintenance.

In preparation for a golf championship, it is not uncommon to have a bunker maintenance crew of 10 to 20 people working full time for two to three weeks prior to and during the event. Achieving "tournament" conditions may include packing the sand, adjusting depths, removing debris and stones, controlling moisture content, adding amendments to the sand, and hand raking—all of which are extremely labor intensive.

If a golf course sets a standard of providing those conditions on an every-day basis, labor costs for bunker maintenance alone can be \$300,000 to \$350,000 a year. For golf courses with annual maintenance budgets under \$1 million such a commitment is obviously out of the question.

Randquist says that golfers are often surprised to learn how much strain bunkers can put on a golf course maintenance budget, but once they are aware of the balance between labor costs and bunker playing conditions they alter their expectations.

Despite a trend in recent years to maintain bunkers in a manner that provides a relatively low degree of difficulty, bunkers are still hazards. When golfers express a desire to have them be less of a hazard, they need to understand that achieving that standard comes with a significant cost.

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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS

FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Our deepest sympathies go out to the Jepko family on the passing of Steve Jepko. Steve was the owner of Three Ponds Golf Course in Elysburg until selling the course to Knobel's this spring.



PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday	July 24	Shawnee Inn and Resort
Monday	August 27	Woodloch Springs
Tuesday	Sept. 25	Woodstone Golf Club
TBD	October	Blue Ridge Trail

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