

CHIPS & PUTTS

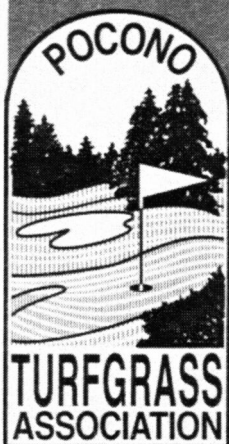
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May 2007



Elkview Country Club

June Meeting

Host: John Downer, Golf Course Superintendent

June brings us to yet another Donald Ross course in the Pocono Mountains, Elkview Country Club. The Johnson and Johnson Company on the family's summer lands in Carbondale, PA conceived Elkview back in 1949. The original clubhouse, Fern Hall, is currently the lodge of the Scottish Glen Golf Club. Originally built as a nine-hole course, the other 9 holes were built after Mr. Ross' death and completed in 1957.

The Par 72 course plays 6600 yards from the blue tees with a slope of 128 and a rating of 72.1. Currently, a major tree removal program is underway to restore some of the original playability to the course. This past winter, 50 trees were removed, with 50 more planned for this coming winter.

John Downer has been at Elkview for the past 20 years. Prior to his position at Elkview John worked at Scranton Muni during high school and college and then moved on to the TPC at Cromwell. John is a graduate of University of Scranton and Penn State University. Helping manage the course's 152 acres is Russell Havesstein, a graduate of SUNY Cobleskill, who has been at Elkview Country Club for the past 5 years. Prior to Elkview, Russell began his golf career at Honesdale Golf Club.

John and Russell have a summer staff of 16 and a winter crew of 8 to manicure the 2.5 acres of greens, 2 acres of tees, 20 acres of fairways, and 30 acres of rough that make up the maintained turf areas at the club. The staff has also seen new tees completed on the front side of the course in 2001 and renovation of the bunkers in 1999. The course is irrigated with a mostly (90%) manual irrigation system, which takes up quite a bit of maintenance time.

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President's Message.....

The majority of us in this industry grew up with a love of the outdoors. We either started out working on a golf course at a young age or played golf and decided it would be an enjoyable summer job. From there, it evolved from a job into a profession. Whatever path we have taken to get where we are today, we have one commonality among us: too many hours spent in the sun. I am sure all of you remember to put on your wide brimmed hat and SPF 30 every morning. Once I found someone to actually marry me knowing what I did for a living I was persuaded by my wonderful wife to have a thorough skin cancer screening yearly. It sometime stretches to two years; however, I still manage to make it. This year, however, I had two moles removed that were tested and found to be pre-cancerous. I don't know how many of you go, but I feel it is well worth your while to be checked out by a reputable dermatologist yearly.

On a different note I would like to thank Andy Dumas and his staff at Silver Creek on hosting our April meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but I heard a lot of good things about the course. I would also like to thank Mike Salinetti and the C.C. of the Poconos for hosting our May meeting. It was a great opportunity to play some new courses, and I look forward to seeing many of you at Elkview in June.

Duane Schell

Editor

Yet another newsletter goes to the printer later than I would have liked, but it is closer. The season has gone into full swing with disease, drought, insects and stress taking their tolls already.

The rapid approach of summer has given a glimpse to what may lie ahead. "Be prepared" is the Boy Scout motto, and a good rule of thumb for superintendents, in my opinion. Although the weather dictates much of what can and cannot be done on the course, planning is key to help keep issues from becoming problems. Plan wisely, adapt well and enjoy the spring until summer arrives fully—Hopefully, with ample and well-timed rains. Let us hope this isn't a season of excesses.

This issue has an interesting article on how temperature can affect chlorophyll production and cause red leaf spot type symptoms which may explain some of the off color turf that was seen this spring. It is a good read on Page 6.

Anyway, enjoy the weather, try to make our monthly meetings and above all, be safe.

Jim Gurzler



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570-868-8113
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570-222-9260

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

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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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In addition to the tree work, cart paths are being relocated to improve playability from exposed landing areas that the tree removal process has opened up. One of John's first projects at the course was the renovation of the 7th tee, which had been let go and had trees growing on it. The trees were removed, the tee repaired, and the hole took the original shape Donald Ross had designed. Currently there is a tree blocking some of the mounding placed by the architect to the left of the green, but that tree had been discussed as a candidate for removal to complete the restoration of the club's signature hole.

If the course doesn't provide enough challenges for the crew in the winter, they find alternative means to keep busy. This past winter those means were the donning of leather tool belts and Norm Abrams' type checked shirts to help the club renovate the Pro Shop. This was a project that John and crew took great pride in and did a wonderful job with.

This month's planned speaker is Bill Pensick. He will be speaking on "The Bare Root of Trees". Thanks also to our meeting sponsors, John Vojick of Andre and Son and Golf Car Services Inc.



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Steve Chirip
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May 2002, No. 2

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COLOR OF BENTGRASS?

I thought the putting greens were looking good; I even consulted my last Turfgrass Tip (Nitrogen Fertilization in Early Spring) prior to purchasing and applying an application of fertilizer. I decided to use a synthetic organic product that contained readily available nitrate. I was concerned with the cooler temperatures we faced and needed something that would not be temperature-release dependent. Soon thereafter, the plants responded. Leaf color darkened and the growth rate increased. I was pleased; after all, there were still many ball marks from last fall that needed to heal.

As the temperatures rose, the growth rate of my greens did the same. We broke high temperature records that second week in April and it seemed that we were going to miss spring and jump into summer. However, reality hit soon thereafter. It cooled off drastically, rains came and the sun went away. So did the color of the bentgrass on my putting greens! The annual bluegrass didn't seem to mind the swing in temperatures, but the bentgrass looked like a Monet up close, mottled and variable in color. I looked for signs of a pathogen, was it a leaf spot of some sort? I thought it could be possible until I consulted Dr. Randy Kane of CDGA fame.

Most of us are aware of the response putting green grass plants have to cold temperatures in the fall. There is often a dramatic color change from green to red and purples on our putting greens. The turfgrass leaves change color just as the anticipated leaves on trees do in the fall.

WHERE DOES THE COLOR COME FROM?

The response stems from the shifting carbohydrates in the plant. When growing conditions are optimal, sugars or carbohydrates, are produced through photosynthesis in the leaves and sheaths. At night, these carbohydrates are redistributed or translocated to the crowns of the plant. Most of the carbohydrates are stored in the crown and can be used for other physiological processes when needed. However, when the plant experiences very cool or cold nights, the process of translocation is slowed and some of the carbohydrates remain in the leaf and stems of the plant. One of the carbohydrates or sugars produced is glucose. Bonded to glucose molecules are plant pigments called anthocyanins. Not much is known of these pigments other than they provide the blue-red-purple color in plants. It is known that chlorophyll, the pigment that colors turf green, reaches a maximum content in creeping bentgrass when temperatures are between 75 and 85°F. Most of the time the chlorophyll masks the presence of anthocyanins and the grass appears green. When cooler temperatures prevail the anthocyanin pigments remain in the leaf blade and stem. The cooler temperature also causes the chlorophyll to become denatured in the leaf blade and the masking effect is lessened. Some of the blue-red-purple pigments become more prevalent in the turfgrass blade and color the plant.



This shift of anthocyanin / chlorophyll concentration in the leaf blade can also occur in the spring. Weather is the deciding factor. Uncommon warm temperatures in early spring can cause bentgrass and annual bluegrass to green up quickly. When followed by a drop in temperature, the concentration of anthocyanin can increase and a reduction in chlorophyll can occur. This shift in "seeable" pigmentation can cause bentgrass to turn reddish brown, brick red or purple colors in the spring. This condition can be aggravated by cultural practices including:

- Topdressing
- Brushing
- Core cultivation
- Foot traffic
- Vertical grooming
- Use of plant growth regulators
- Dry and windy weather

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Perhaps, I failed to mention that I did get a topdressing application down just prior to the onset of the cold weather. I did set my vertical groomers to "aggressive" and used them in two different directions on the same warm windy day. Perhaps, I forgot to mention that I also used a brush on the putting greens to take care of some stubborn horizontal growth and then one Monday, I even rolled them.

I did notice the color change of the bentgrass days after the cold temperature swing. Then a few wet and cold days later I noticed spot like lesions on my bentgrass leaf blades. "Leaf spot", I thought was the culprit. However after my talk with Dr. Kane, I was informed it wasn't leaf spot but the weather and a couple of other applied cultural factors. The cold snap turned my bentgrass blue, okay maybe red-brown but blue has a nice sound. The cultural practices I applied may have injured the turf further, but the lesions I saw were not the cause of my altered turf color. The lesions or "leaf spots" that were present on the bentgrass blades were most likely due to opportunistic saprophytes taking advantage of my weather-weakened bentgrass. It should be noted, that an application of a fungicide may help to control these weak saprophytes, but an application of fungicide to control the weather will not work.

No need to panic. The best remedy for this problem is around the corner. Warm weather, some sunshine and a little bit of plant available nitrogen will ease the distress caused by the cold weather.



May Meeting Results

CC of Poconos

Thanks again to Mike Salinetti and the staff for hosting us. It was a wonderful day, and the course was in great shape. Thanks also to Jim MacLaren of HTS and John Wiblishauser of Bayer for sponsoring our meeting. Thanks also to Lance Seeton and Jim Gurzler for picking up the bar tab.

Our first order of business was the talk on Growth Regulators given by Jeff Borger. Thanks, Jeff. It was a very informative talk. I, for one, always enjoy when questions are asked. The room was full of questions, which means to me it was talk that hit home. So the meeting was off to a great start.

The 50/50 winners were Jim Gurzler, John Wiblishauser, and our host, Mike Salinetti. The other winner was the scholarship which is growing. Thanks to all for that.

The tournament was a two man scramble won by the team of Mike Condor and Don Jennings from Great Bear with a 65. Second place went to Chuck DeAngelo and Jim Ghigiarelli of Elmhurst, while third place went to Greg Boring of Glen Oak and Paul Brandon of Finch Equipment. The long drive was won by Chris Butler of Lawn and Golf, and Jeff Lesoine of Water Gap won our Closest to the Pin competition.

Skins were awarded as well, and they were won by Mike Condor and Don Jennings (4 skins), Greg Boring and Paul Brandon (2 skins) and the teams of Tom Height & Andy Jubinski, and Rick Anglemeyer and Jeff Lesoine (1 skin each).

Thanks again to Country Club of the Poconos for hosting our meeting. The course was great, the weather beautiful, and the food fabulous. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Elkview in June.

Lee A. Kozsey
Territory Manager
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NEWS AND VIEWS

FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Andy Faist, on his new position as superintendent at Mt. Airy CC in Mt. Pocono, PA.

Get well soon to Kelly Kressler, recovering from a broken pelvis. Kelly is the superintendent at Southmoore Golf Club in Bath, PA.

Our condolences go out to the Valentine Family on the passing of Richard Valentine. Richard (Richie) Valentine was a Class AA member of Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents joining in 1960.

Best wishes to Carmen Magro on his new position with Floratine.

PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday	June 25	Elkview Country Club
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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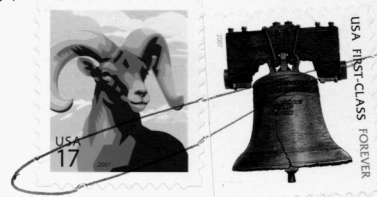
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