



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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OCT 22 2007



Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club

PTGA Championship

Duane Schell, Golf Course Superintendent

Alberdeen Acres, built in 1992 was the original name for the venue we are going to play this month. Since that time the original 9-hole layout has been expanded twice to its current configuration of 27 holes. The newest nine intertwines with the 18 holes that were finished in May of 1998. This gives everyone a taste of the varied layouts available at the Dorrance, PA, golf course.

Ault and Clark and Associates did the expansion in 1998 and Dan Schlegel, this month's speaker, did the final 9. Other courses in our area done by this group include Mountain Valley in Mahanoy City, Belles Springs, Clinton Country Club, and many others. Dan Schlegel is currently the architect at Mount Airy Resort handling the upcoming renovation of that site.

Duane Schell has been at Blue Ridge Trail for the past 9 seasons. Prior to this, Duane worked at Doylestown as an assistant and locally worked at Sugarloaf while pursuing his degrees. Duane holds a degree in Business from Bloomsburg University and a degree from Penn State that he earned in 1995. His current assistant, Tom Calpin, just joined his staff this season. Tom is a graduate of the University of Maryland.

The staff at Blue Ridge Trail numbers 20 in the summer and dwindles to 4 in the winter. These individuals maintain 6 acres of Greens, 6 acres of Tees and 40 acres of fairways. There are approximately 80 acres of maintained of rough around the 27 holes.

Projects for this fall and next season include irrigation upgrades to improve coverage and

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President's Message.....

It is hard to believe my two years as president of the PTGA is coming to an end. It has been a good experience overall; however, I will not miss Jim Gurzler imploring me for a President's Message each month.

There are many people I would like to thank for volunteering their time to the Association and Jim is one of them. He has done an excellent job as our newsletter editor. I feel our publication has come a long way since he took over. It is professionally done and has some very informative articles each month. Next I would like to thank Darrin Larkin for developing and maintaining our website. I would also like to congratulate Darrin on becoming the next president of the PTGA. I know he will do a great job for our Association. Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for volunteering their time, and to all our vendors for their generosity. It is because of them we can keep our meeting costs down. With the hectic schedules we all keep today, it is difficult to find the time to attend our monthly meetings. I think the past few years our attendance has improved dramatically and the Association is moving in the right direction.

Best of luck to Darrin and the incoming Board.

Duane Schell

Editor

The first frosts have popped up here in the Poconos as fall begins to set on the area. The leaves are just starting to fall, aerification is coming to a close, and more drought has crept in. Drought in September! What strange weather we are having. The Farmers Almanac is calling for a wicked end to 2007 and a mild beginning to 2008. Will that be what we see? Will the holiday season have us locked in our homes as winter sets in and we get the much need precipitation in the form of snow?

Hopefully our winter is kind to the abundance of Poa on many green in the area and our trade show days are filled with bright skies and clean roads to keep up those PDI points and pesticide licenses.

Speaking of winter this early may be a bit premature but the seasons tend to blend together. As September comes to an end Halloween decorations are out, Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations are beginning to make their showing as well. Today's fast paced life needs a little breaking in my opinion. Take some time to stop and listen to the leaves fallings, smell the belts on the mulcher working hard, enjoy the "slow" time. Spring will be here before you know it.

Jim Gurzler



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drainage projects.

The course is divided into three nines titled Blue, Ridge, and Trail. They play as follows: Blue Nine, 3548 yards, Par 36; Ridge Nine, 3547 yards, Par 36; and the Trail Nine, 3417 yards, Par 36.

Dan Schlegel will be our speaker this month. Dan will talk on design aspects, construction on the newest nine, and the routing plan.

Our meeting sponsors this month are Tom Trifelitti of Golf Car Specialities and Joe Jaskot of Atlantic Irrigation. Our format is championship play, as it is our Annual Championship. If there is sufficient interest and a lack of frost there is the opportunity to play the first nine prior to our meeting start.

August Meeting Results Woodloch Springs

First, "Thank You" to Jeff Hugaboom, Golf Course Superintendent, for hosting our clambake. Although unable to attend, all I have heard are rave reviews of the course and the fine fare from the clubhouse. Thanks also to all the maintenance staff, pro shop staff, and kitchen staff that made our annual fundraiser such a success yet again.

Although Downer tried his best he wasn't able to assemble a team capable of a "Four Peat." He was, however, happy that the trophy stayed in town. Darrin Larkin, our incoming president, used his considerable power to stare down the opposition and make a few good shots to help his team secure victory with a 16 under par score. The team from Panorama consisted of Darrin, Ben Vauter, Skip Horan, and Dave Sarnowski.

In second place was the team of Jim Phillips, Greg Phillips, Chris Phillips and Low Dix with a 62. In third place was the team of Chris Moran, Tony Lavenduski, Jeff Giblin, and Joe Gardas with a 67. Additionally, Steve Walser was closest to the pin on the 8th hole, Paul Warchal had the longest drive on the 9th hole, and Jim Gardas was Closest to the Pin on the 17th hole. Five skins held up with the winning team from Panorama taking two skins, the hometown team from Woodloch took a skin (Hugaboom, Jeremy Jones, Carpenter, and Jim Gardas), the Phillips team took a skin and the Elkview team, not to go quietly, took a skin as well.

Eighty golfers came out to support our annual scholarship fundraiser. The day was a great success with their participation and the sponsorship of tee signs by many of our local purveyors of golf course materials. The complete list of sponsors is on Page 7.

Thanks again to everyone for coming out and supporting the scholarship fund and the Association.

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September Meeting Round up

Woodstone Golf Club

Jason Barndt, Superintendent

Forty individuals came to Danielsville, PA, to visit Woodstone Golf Club and enjoy the scenery of the Blue Mountain Area. Jason Barndt and the staff of Woodstone made us feel most welcome with sumptuous meals and a challenging golf course.

Steve Randall came in from GCSAA headquarters to talk to the Association about "What's New at GCSAA." He discussed 2007 initiatives and the focus of the Outreach Program to help brand all the associations together in an attempt to further strengthen our industry.

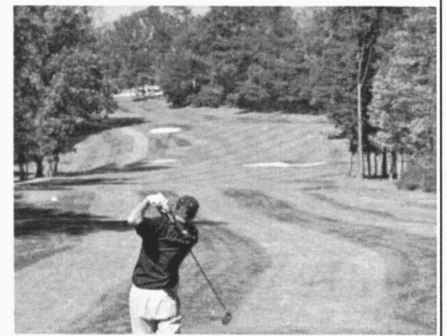
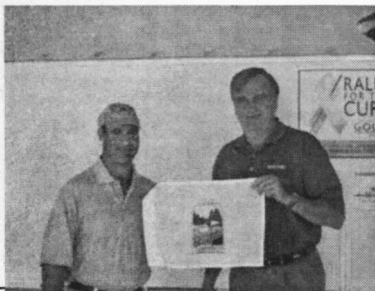
After Steve's talk and lunch, we headed to the golf course for a Better Ball Partners Tournament. Along the way, Greg Boring hit the longest drive and Matt Brown had Closet to the Pin honors in our skills competition. The skins tournament had 9 skins hold up 3 were won by the team of Duane Schell and Steve Randall, 2 were won by the team of Eric Reed and Paul Brandon, and 1 each were won by the team of Joe Sellers and Chris Butler, Jim Hill and Kevin Vrabel, Barry Goodhart and Patrick Knelly, and Rick Pany and Steve Stranzl scored the last skin.

The tournament winners were the team of Duane Schell and Steve Randall who shot a 75. They beat out the team of Eric Reed and Paul Brandon on a match of cards. In 3rd place was the team of Patrick Knelly and Barry Goodhart with a 78.

This month's event was our Annual Meeting, and although there was a good turnout, there was not a voting quorum. The election will have to take place at a later date to install our new Board. It should not go unnoticed, though, that there are new faces volunteering for the Board. This is a good thing for the Association, and it will hopefully continue. If you are unsure about having time available to serve on the Board there are many positions available on committees that would be well served by more participation.

Any way, in closing, thank you to Bob Seltzer of Fischer and Sons and Matt Brown of Philadelphia Turf for sponsoring our meeting at Woodstone. Thanks again to Jason Barndt, his staff and the rest of the staff at Woodstone for hosting our meeting.

Thanks also to the outgoing Board members for their dedication to the Board and for the time they have given to the Association.



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What the GCSAA is Doing for You!

One of the highlights over the past year is working with members and chapters outlining the benefits of your GCSAA membership. There are over 365 valuable tools any member can activate. Your membership and utilizing the benefits and values costs less than \$1 per day for the entire year!

What you put into your membership is what you will return. Education and maintaining your certification or Class A status is front and center for what GCSAA membership provides. Did you realize there are more than 200 competency based programs at your fingertips? The educational conference and golf industry show provides numerous educational opportunities, but you can also gain valuable information right at your computer, participating in various web casts, many topics tailored for your region.

But membership is more than education. Let's take a look at what members receive as valuable programs.

Professional Development: Maintaining and/or achieving Class A status and/or Certified Golf Course Superintendent status shows your commitment to being the best superintendent for your facility.

Access to GCSAA 24/7: Need to know about important legislation in your area? Need to find information on a fellow member? Need to track your service points? Look no further than gcsaa.org.

Environmental program information through the Environmental Institute for Golf: The non-profit arm of the GCSAA provides opportunities for members to learn about water and plant management, wildlife/habitat management, energy and waste management along with golf course siting, design and construction.

Communication and informational resources: Many are familiar with GCM Magazine, however there are numerous other communication vehicles and GCSAA provides many chapters with articles for reprint. These articles may highlight fellow members, focus on tournament set up and preparing for championships at your facility, or cover general issues keeping your facility in top condition.

Discussion Forums/Networking: One of the popular forums on the GCSAA web site is Talking Turf and Shop Talk. Members can share their insight and transfer their experience to others.

Chapter Management: For many, becoming involved with their chapter is important. The GCSAA has an entire staff dedicated to chapter services. This includes a speaker's bureau, information on affiliation and general services designed to keep your chapter current with the latest industry trends.

Career Services: A multitude of information is at your fingertips. From searching for a new position to finding the perfect candidate for your needs, the GCSAA is there for you. Those searching for a position can receive help crafting their resume and cover letter, along with helpful interview reminders and tips. In addition a complete compensation and benefits report provides the superintendent with important information.

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Technical Sales Rep.

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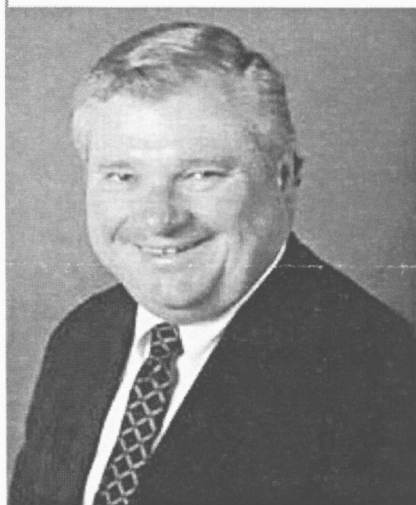
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These are just some of the areas GCSAA membership works for you. As a staff, the GCSAA has worked diligently on a branding campaign to enhance the presence of the superintendent and make the superintendent recognizable for the everyday and casual golfer. The most visible result is the television advertisement run on the Golf Channel. Also, there have been numerous feature stories with superintendent's hosting various events. The effort is not just focused on television. There have been many advertisements placed in magazines focused on golf, but also focused on related industries. If you need to know more, please contact our office. We are here for you and know that members matter most. Our toll free number is 800/472-7878.

We also appreciate your comments. Let us know how we can better serve you! Also, take advantage of everything GCSAA offers. Become engaged!

Steve Randall
Chapter Liaison/Field Staff
GCSAA

**Stanley J. Zontek (B.S. 1970); 2007
Recipient of the Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences
Distinguished Alumni Award**



Stanley J. Zontek, Director of the United States Golf Association Green Section's (USGA) Mid-Atlantic Region, has been chosen to receive the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at The Pennsylvania State University. This award salutes the achievements of outstanding departmental alumni who have made a significant contribution to their profession.

Stanley has served the USGA and the golf turf industry with enthusiasm and passion for over 36 years. He is noted as one of the most highly respected agronomists within the golf industry. Prior to his current position as Mid-Atlantic Director, he was Director of the North Central and Northeastern USGA Green Section regions. He also held the position as Agronomist in the Northeastern Region. His distinguished service and contributions are recognized world-wide and he is frequently invited to speak at local, regional, national, and international turf conferences. Stanley has received numerous awards within the golf industry. He has served on the editorial board for two books and trade journals and has authored over 90 technical articles for industry publications.

Former recipients of this award include Joseph Duich, Emeritus Professor of Turfgrass Science at Penn State University; George May, President/CEO, Institute for Technology Development; Alan Bilzi, President of Environmental Venture Group, Inc.; and James Dragun, President and Founder of The Dragun Corporation.

Mr. Zontek will be receiving this award at this years Penn State Conference. November 13-15th. Please come out and show your respect and approval for this fine addition to the Turfgrass industry.



Dean Snyder
President

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POCONO ROUNDUP

News and Views



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Darin Larkin and his wife, Heather, on the birth of their son. Sean Eben Larkin was born on September 26, 2007, at 4:34 p.m. He was 5 lbs 2 oz and 17 inches in length. Although 5 weeks early, he and mom are doing well.

Do you have a picture of your course that you would like others to see? Send it along to jim@gurzler.com.



PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

October 16, 2007 Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club
PTGA Championship

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
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