



CHIPS & PUTTS

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August Meeting **Country Club of Scranton** Host: Greg Boring, GCS

Our annual clambake and scholarship fundraiser tournament takes us to one of Northeast PA's truly historic and beautiful golf courses in the Country Club of Scranton. The Club, started in 1896, was originally located in downtown Scranton on the site of Marywood University. In 1926 they moved sites to their current location with the 18 hole course being designed by Walter Travis. With an extensive membership of over 600, the 18 hole course could not meet the demands of the members, so in 1989 a new 9 holes (The Falls), were constructed under the architectural supervision of Michael Hurzdan.

Known for its difficult, sloping greens, CC of Scranton has hosted many tournaments over the years; four PA State Amateurs (the most recent being just last month), the Senior PA State Amateur, a PA State Open, US Open qualifiers, and the Anthracite Open, which boasted players such as Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, and Gene Sarazen.

As with most of the established courses in our area, the fairways, greens, and tees are all a poa/bent mix. The course plays to a par 72 at 7,000 yards from the tips and is protected by 62 bunkers. The 27 hole property boasts 4 acres of greens, 4 acres of tees, and 44 acres of fairways.

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President's Message.....

August has arrived and many of us are diving into aerification mode. It is a busy time of year for all of us. Several Superintendents I have spoken to this week are either completing their aerification or have already done so. Before you know it football season will be around the corner, and we will be irritating members with frost delays. The Fall is a time for the turf to recover as well as a time for us to recover.

The summer for a Golf Course Superintendent can be as demanding a position that anyone can possibly imagine. It is not uncommon for many of us to work 12-14 hour days. We go weeks or even months without a day off. This schedule takes a toll on us physically as well as mentally. It also takes a toll on our families. I had an unfortunate reminder recently of what we sacrifice because of what we do. We take our health and our families for granted, and we tell ourselves we will take some time with families and ourselves in the off-season. I'm as guilty of this as probably anyone. The fact is no one knows what tomorrow will bring. Do your jobs to the best of your ability but also take time to spend with those who are important in your life. You never get that time back.

Greg Boring

Editor's Notes.....

Clambake time already!! The season is quickly moving by. I hope everyone is doing well and having a successful year.

Please send me some pictures!!!!!! I know you have them.....

Hope to see you at Scranton for our largest annual meeting.

Brian Bachman



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Thank You!!



The Country Club of Scranton would like to thank the sponsors and all volunteers for their generosity during the 2015 Pennsylvania State Amateur.



Summer Patch Blisters Kentucky Bluegrass Lawns



By: Dr. Peter Dernoden via Turf Diseases.com....August 7, 2015

Having had mild summer weather in 2013 and 2014, diseases like summer patch have not been a big problem in the last two years. Summer patch is mostly a disease of Kentucky and annual bluegrass and creeping red fescue. It was the heavy rain storms and high temperatures in late June and July that brought summer patch back to the forefront in 2015.

Summer patch was once known as Fusarium blight and dubbed the SOB disease (Summer Obliteration of Bluegrass) by Professor Patricia Sanders at Penn State in the late 1970's. In the early 1980's, Dr. Richard Smiley at Cornell discovered that the causal agent was a darkly pigmented fungus that attacked roots and stems and not a species of Fusarium. It was not until 1989, when Dr.'s Peter Landschoot and Noel Jackson at the University of Rhode Island, found the real culprit, which turned out to be a previously undescribed fungal pathogen, which they named *Magnaporthe poae*.

The most important environmental factors required for summer patch development are for soils to be very warm ($\geq 75^{\circ}\text{F}$) and wet. Generally, summer patch does not become evident in lawns before mid-July in the mid-Atlantic and usually appears during hot sunny weather following heavy rain events.



Summer patch is most severe on sunny, exposed slopes or other heat-stressed areas such as those adjacent to sidewalks, driveways and south facing sides of homes and other buildings. Thunderstorm deluges that result in standing water often are associated with extreme damage to turf. Saturated soils absorb and hold more heat and are more deficient in oxygen compared to well drained soils, which promotes colonization and infection of roots and stem bases by the pathogen.

Symptoms of summer patch in Kentucky bluegrass initially appear as wilted spots or bronze-colored spots,

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not unlike dog urine damage. There are no diagnostic leaf lesions, but on close inspection, you are likely to find that leaves die-back from the tip and are bleached white. Affected areas soon turn white, tan or straw-brown. In severe cases, patches increase in size and may become crescent-shaped or remain circular. Fully developed patches generally range from 6 to 18 inches in diameter. In closely cut Kentucky bluegrass, a yellow or bronze-colored halo may be seen at the outer periphery of patches. Healthy turf (usually tall fescue in mixed stand) may persist in the center of patches, producing rings or frog-eye symptoms. Depressions in turf called "crater pits" are common. Patches may coalesce, and large non-uniformly shaped areas of turf can be destroyed within a two week period. Many lawns consist of mixes of Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue. Since tall fescue is resistant, if not immune to summer patch, symptoms in mixed stands usually are diffuse and circular patches are not seen.



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2nd Place

Russell Hauenstein, Jerry Decker
John Vojick & Jeff

9th Place

Ron Garrison, John Polak,
Shaun Barry & Steve Chirip

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Continued from page 1....

Since 2009, shortly after Greg's arrival at Scranton, the course has undergone some major renovations and improvements. In the fall of 2009 all the greens had new drainage installed via the XGD system. In July of 2011 the Club embarked on a major renovation project that included the complete rebuilding of all 62 bunkers on the 18 hole course, the re-contouring of some fairways, construction of some forward tees, and the addition of 2.5 acres of tightly mowed greens surrounds/collection areas as seen in the picture on the right. Oh, and I can't fail to mention that Greg and his crew have also overseen the removal of more than 2,500 trees through his years there, as well. Since our last visit to Scranton, the driving range has been completely renovated also. All of these renovations have now led to CC of Scranton now being ranked in the top 100 classical golf courses in the United States.

Greg, an Ohio State grad who interned at Oakmont, has been superintendent at CC of Scranton since January of 2008 coming over from neighboring Glen Oak CC after a stint of 3 years as superintendent there. Before that, he spent 2 years as the assistant at Preakness Hills CC in NJ and 3 years as an assistant in Florida.

As you can imagine, this sizeable property takes a sizeable staff to keep it in tip-top shape. The in-season crew of 35 has 4 employees with Turf degrees, including his assistant Shane Sullivan, along with long time employee and now equipment manager Charlie Saxe.

I certainly hope you have the opportunity to get away and play this course and catch up with some peers as the season quickly continues.



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MORE BIG NEWS!!

PTGA is now on twitter: @PoconoTurfgrass

Photo of the Month

We all see interesting things every day....wildlife (like bald eagles and bears), strange turf problems (like a lightning strike), an employee who stayed out too late the night before, etc. So if you have a great photo, send it to me (bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com) and share it for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



August Photo of the Month

Yup.....it rained a lot in late June and early July. Here are some unwelcome new ponds as a result.

Thanks to Brian Cross at Mahoning Valley CC for sharing!!




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POCONO ROUNDUP

Condolences

July hit our Association and brotherhood hard. Our condolences go out to:

Jeff and Nardi Koch on the passing of their son Louis on July 26.

The family of Matt Kachurak, an employee at Blue Ridge Trail, who passed on July 24.

PTGA SCHEDULE

Aug 31	PTGA Clambake Scranton CC
Sept 22	PTGA Golf Meeting Elkview GC
Oct 6	PTGA Golf Meeting Fox Hill CC

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