CHIPS & PUTTS

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October Meeting
Fox Hill Country Club
Host: Ron Garrison, GCS

October takes us to one of the PTGA's favorite stops which is Fox Hill C.C. Founded in 1920 as a 9 hole course, the Club quickly expanded to 18 holes in 1924 under the architectural design of one of the most famous classical architects, A.W. Tillinghast. This 6,555 yard par 71 course winds over the gently rolling terrain to present a challenging and memorable experience. The primarily bentgrass fairways and poa/bent greens are always in great shape, and I'm sure host Superintendent Ron Garrison will have them rolling smooth and fast for us.

Ron is a 1987 Penn State graduate who has been in this industry all his life. A Berwick native, Ron has been at Fox Hill since 1997. Before coming to Fox Hill, Ron gained experience working as superintendent at Glen Oak C.C. He was also the construction and grow in superintendent at The Center Valley Club and served at two different TPC courses. In his 18 years at Fox Hill, Ron has seen a large contingent of former assistants move on to superintendent jobs in the area, as well.

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President's Message.....

Greg Boring

Editor's Notes.....

Last meeting of the year….hard to believe meeting season is over already.

As the season comes to an end and we all get to recharge our batteries, don't forget to try to attend some winter seminars. The schedule is at the end of the newsletter.

Keep sending me pics…..

Brian Bachman

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Pennsylvania Golf Day Rendered a Success

By Chase Rogan

On Tuesday, June 9, we made golf history in the Keystone State. This date marked our first ever Pennsylvania Golf Day hosted in Harrisburg, the State's capital. What's Pennsylvania Golf Day? It's an opportunity. An opportunity to tell golf's story. An opportunity to build relationships with the legislators who govern the land where we reside and work. For superintendents specifically, an opportunity to promote ourselves as professional land-managers and stewards.

L-R: Chase Rogan, Micah Lowell, Senator Vulakovich, Tim Fitzgerald

We had seven participating organizations from around the State, including the CMA, two PGA sections, Pennsylvania Golf Owners (PGO), Western PA Golf Association (WPGA), Golf Association of Philadelphia (GAP), and, of course, the PGCSA.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in about 80 meetings with state legislators and/or their staff. We talked about golf's economic impact in Pennsylvania – almost $2 billion annually. We talked about the number of jobs golf creates in the State – about 30,000 with a payroll approaching $500 million. We talked about the charitable contributions of golf – almost $4 billion annually across the U.S. We also met with chairmen of the committees that are responsible for fertilizer and drought legislation in the State, both of which impact the way we do business.

By cultivating these relationships with our state government, it improves our chance of having a "seat at the table" when new bills are proposed, or existing legislation is reviewed. If we can establish the trust that empowers our legislators to seek our opinions, then we are doing ourselves and our industry a great service.

In addition to the meetings, we had a large exhibit set up in the East Wing rotunda of the main capitol building. Imagine a trade show. There was a hitting simulator (huge draw), a putting green and booths for each participating organization. At our table, we promoted our BMP manual, multiple irrigation technologies, different types of turf plugs and anything else that highlighted water, fertilizer or environmental management. Anybody – including legislators – coming through the rotunda that day could stop and talk with us. The traffic was steady.

Everyone that participated found the day worthwhile and educational. Not only does this day help us promote the industry we love, but there is a great deal of learning that takes place simply by engaging. I think it's safe to render Pennsylvania Golf Day 2015 a great success. We look forward to building on that momentum in 2016!

Valley C.C. Superintendent, Eric Reed, Gets Recognition from Members and GCSAA for Unique Approach to Winterkill

We are well aware of the brutal conditions the Mid-Atlantic region experienced this past winter. Horror stories of devastation on greens swept through the grapevine. Undoubtedly, turf kill was widespread. These situations require a lot of hard work and patience for recovery, and often times our golfer clientele do not fully understand the unpredictability of winterkill, nor the time and effort it takes to recoup putting surfaces. However, sometimes they do understand, and it's always nice to hear positive feedback from our customers during testy times.

That's why we were delighted when we got a phone call from Valley Country Club member Larry Klemow, praising the work of his superintendent, Eric Reed, CGCS. Eric has been busy babying his greens back to health after a challenging winter. Larry said of Eric's hard work, "There's a whole bunch of people who like you, and a whole bunch who don't. I'm one of those on his side. It's because of how much he respects his golf course."

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Eric had nearly 20 percent damage on his greens coming out of winter, the worst he has ever had. He and a group of industry friends (volunteers) replaced approximately 8,000-9,000 plugs by taking live turf from the edge of greens and replacing it with the damaged plugs. This method allowed him to complete the work as quickly as possible since he eliminated the travel time of hauling plugs from another location. In working through restoration, Eric said communication to his Greens Committee was important for setting realistic expectations of recovery time.

As is typical with winterkill, it's hard to pinpoint exactly what caused the damage, but Eric believes it was a combination of crown hydration and ice cover. In preparing for next year, he plans on being diligent with his K fertility, as well as improve surface drainage by stripping and lowering the greens' collars.

Eric was also quick to acknowledge those who loaned a helping hand, and wants to recognize those individuals: Brian Bachman, Genesis Turfgrass; Charlie Miller, CGCS, The Springhaven Club; Patrick Knelly, Sugarloaf Golf Club; Matt Kuchta, Sugarloaf G.C.; Joe Horan, Sugarloaf G.C.; Chris Snopkowski, Wyoming Valley Country Club; Scott Kotula, Wyoming Valley C.C. ; Chuck Usher, Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club.

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Some of the recent projects at the Club include the construction of new tees and the installation of some grass bunkers. Ron is assisted by long time assistant John Polak and their crew of 3 full timers and 7 seasonal employees.

Be sure to make it out to enjoy our final meeting of the year at this beautiful venue, and knowing Ron, the odds are that he will make it a memorable event.

September Meeting Results
Elkview C.C.

1st Place
T. J. Hart 76

2nd Place
Greg Boring 79

3rd Place
Les Lear 80

18th Place
John Chassard 96

Closest to the Pin #7
Brandon Wisnosky 16’8”

Closest to the Pin #12
Greg Boring 18’1”

Longest Drive
Bob Seltzer

Skins
Bob Seltzer -Eagle #1

GOOD NEWS!!

The PTGA is now accepting SAME DAY credit card payments for our monthly meetings.
(Extra fee applies)

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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).

October Photo of the Month

The power of a grass rhizome….

If you don't send me pictures then you get one of mine. This rhizome grew directly through a carrot from my garden.

Pretty cool if you ask me….

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John Deere	Brent Wood	570.499.1441
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POCONO ROUNDUP

"My favourite words are possibilities, opportunities and curiosity. I think if you are curious, you create opportunities, and then if you open the doors, you create possibilities."

-Mario Testino

PTGA SCHEDULE

Oct 7	PTGA Golf Meeting Fox Hill CC
Oct 20	MET Area Championship
Nov 10-12	Penn State Turf Conference
Dec 8-10	NJ Turf Expo
Jan 5-6	Eastern PA Turf Conference
Jan 28	NEPA Turf Conference Woodlands

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