



# CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION  
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May Meeting  
**Schuylkill Country Club**  
*Host: William Schneider*  
Joint Meeting with Central

May brings us to a joint meeting with the Central Penn Association at the lovely Schuylkill Country Club. Like many older clubs in the area, Schuylkill is loaded with interesting history and an association with famous golfers and celebrities. Originally designed as a 9 hole tract located in Pottsville by Willie Park in 1919, Schuylkill was reborn through a redesign of the original 9 and layout of a new 9 by world famous architect Donald Ross on it's current site in Orwigsburg. Why the move you ask? Well to get away from the prohibition era regulations in Pottsville of course. When walking through the clubhouse you may not see them, but there are hidden passageways and rooms designed during that prohibition era so that members could safely enjoy their liquor away from the eyes of the law. Today, one of their most prominent members, Dick Yuengling, can enjoy his beverages without fear of repercussion.

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## President's Message.....

What a difference a month makes. April's cold temperatures have been replaced with some record heat for May. For those with damaged greens from winter like myself, it has been a welcome change.

I would like to thank Gregg Kozar and Eric Duffy for hosting us at Pine Hills Country Club last month. A great time was had by all and thanks to Dave Schell of BASF, we were able to gather a couple core credits for our pesticide license. I would also like to thank our sponsors Grass Roots, Syngenta Professional Partners, and Turf Equipment and Supply for their support. This month we will be joining our colleagues to the South from the Central Association at Schuylkill Country Club. I hope to see many of you make the trip down to experience a Donald Ross Classic Golf Course.

The deadline for scholarship applications is right around the corner. Please check out our website at [www.ptga.org](http://www.ptga.org) for details as well as the application. We have revised the application for the scholarship this year to make the process a little simpler for applicants. I would like to thank Patrick Healey from Scranton Canoe Club for his work on the revised application.

We continue to strive to improve attendance at our monthly meetings. I know everyone is busy this time of year, but I find speaking with my peers at these meetings is valuable. I am always able to come away with new ideas that can benefit my facility. If you have an idea of how our meetings can be improved, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope to see all of you at Schuylkill.

*Greg Boring*

## Editor's Notes.....

The year is off and running.....but the rainfall is not. Luckily it's early and hasn't hurt us too badly yet.

A big thanks to Shane Miller at Iron Lakes C.C. for his article this month. I always appreciate the input.

Keep those pictures coming, and I'll see you at Schuylkill.

*Brian Bachman*



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## Bees

### The Buzz about Honey Bees – by Shane A Miller

Everyone has an opinion about bees. Some of these opinions are based upon facts and others emotion, the best in my mind are based upon both. I am the golf course superintendent at Iron Lakes Country Club in Allentown PA. In my time as a golf course superintendent, especially in recent years, I have heard several thoughts about bees. Many people are allergic to bee stings. Often when they see bees or bee hives they want them killed and removed ASAP. The year before I accepted the position at Tumblebrook Golf Club in Coopersburg, PA a golfer died in the parking lot shortly after being stung by a bee. I was told by upper management to kill any and all bees on the property. In recent times, the comments I am hearing have completely changed. Now, I hear “do you use that pesticide that is killing all the Honey Bees?” Well this is not a valid question. I am not denying that pesticides have contributed to the decline in the Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Populations; however, the issue of European and Western Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder is much bigger than any one contributing factor.



#### **Colony Collapse Disorder**

The disappearance of the worker bee from a colony is now known as colony collapse disorder (CCD). This phenomenon has been happening without the history of apiculture (bee keeping). It has been referred to as spring dwindle, disappearing disease, May disease, autumn collapse and fall dwindle disease. It was not named Colony Collapse Disorder until 2006 when the numbers of disappearing bees in the North American colonies used in agriculture drastically increased. Similar losses were seen in Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Northern Ireland Assembly has had the greatest losses reported at over 50%. This disorder is of great economic concern because it is estimated that of \$200 billion of crops worldwide are pollinated by honey bees.



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## Pocono Turfgrass Association 2015 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 **June 30, 2015**. 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. 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 **June 30, 2015**. 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. Applicants must include a letter of endorsement from their PTGA relation with their application.

For a copy of the application, please go to the Pocono Turfgrass Association website at:

**ptga.org**

### Applications should be submitted to:

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Known for its fast, undulating greens, Schuylkill C.C. has hosted many events over the years, including the 1980 Philadelphia PGA Championship. Walter Hagen also graced the links at Schuylkill. The par 3's here are known as the signature holes and will grant you a memorable experience.

The course is maintained by Superintendent Willie Schneider, a Penn State Grad. He's been at Schuylkill for 19 years and was former superintendent Jim Rattigan's assistant for the past 10 years. When Jim moved on this spring, Willie got the well deserved opportunity to manage this 6,857 yard track. Willie is assisted by Brad Lehman and together with their crew of 4-5 full time and 5-6 seasonal employees they keep this course in great shape.

Over the years, improvements and upgrades have been made to the 3 acres of greens, 27 acres of fairways, 2 acres of tees, and 56 bunkers. There have been 4 greens rebuilt (not #16 of course....that's where warring Indian tribes buried their dead).

It should be a great day, and I hope to see you all there!!



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The cost of renting bees as pollinators is now costing American farmers 20% more due to this disorder.

### **Contributing Factors to Colony Collapse Disorder**

All of the mechanisms of CCD and the reasons for its increased prevalence remain unclear and should be further investigated. Some of the purported contributions of CCD include: pesticides, primarily neonicotinoids; infections from Varroa and Acarapis mites; malnutrition; loss of habitat; climate change and the change in bee keeping practices. In 2006 the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group based in Pennsylvania State University was established and pointed out many patterns but drew no conclusions. In a survey done in 2007 most beekeeping hobbyists believe that the decline was due to starvation or lack of wildflowers, while most commercial beekeepers believe the decline is due to Varroa mites. The Varroa mite is a parasitic pest found in high numbers in the hives affected by colony collapse disorder. The current scientific consensus is that no single factor is the cause of CCD, but the some of these factors in combination or synergistically responsible for this disorder.

### **Neonicotinoid Insecticides**

In the 1980's Shell and in the 1990's Bayer began the development of a new classification of insecticide that is chemically similar to nicotine. These chemistries became known as neonicotinoid. Neonicotinoids are far less toxic in birds and mammals than the previously used organophosphate and carbamate insecticides. The neonicotinoid family includes acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. Imidacloprid is the most widely used insecticide in the world. In agriculture, corn production for example, each seed kernel is coated with enough clothianidin to kill 80,000 bees. They are then planted with a machine that works pneumatically creating a dust that is carried to adjacent fields, prairies and forests contaminating natural habitats for bees.

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To some this is condoned by increased yields of crops to feed the world. However agriculture isn't to take all the blame, the green industry uses imidacloprid as a powerful tool against white grubs. White grubs are Japanese Beetles, European Chafers, Masked Chafers, June Beetles, Green Beetles and many other Scarabs that feed on roots of turf. Neonicotinoids are also the most powerful tool we have to fight against the emerald ash bore that is rapidly destroying the population of ash trees in America. Neonicotinoids are powerful tools in managing insect pest and much safer than the chemistries they have replaced. There are many steps that we can take to minimize the impact of these chemistries on honey bees.



### **Bee-coming a better Environmental Steward**

Before all the concern of colony collapse disorder and the mounting scientific evidence that neonicotinoids are a contributing factor, imidacloprid (Merit, Bayer) was a staple to my agronomic programs. I have always practiced integrated pesticide management (IPM). This is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. A key phrase in this definition is current, comprehensive information. I have compiled, studied and altered pest management programs utilized. A few of the alterations in the agronomic programs used are as follows: weed management, time of applications, pollinator habitats, and alternative chemistries. There are many turfgrass weeds: dandelions, white clover, speed well and ground ivy that provides forage for pollinators including honey bees in turfgrass. These weeds should take priority in management over grubs or insects. Timing of insecticides should be looked at closely before any applications. The timing should be done in a way that is highly effective on the pest with least effect on beneficial insects. Applications should be done in the morning and watered

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in before honey bees and other pollinators begin to forage for pollen. Environmentally sensitive areas including wildflowers are more preferable when available for honey bees. This addresses the concern of bee keeping hobbyists reducing starvation and increasing natural habitats. Many of the major chemical companies in the world are working diligently at developing new tools to use to protect our crops from pests. The anthranilic diamide chlorantraniliprole (Acelepryn, Syngenta) is a very effective white grub chemistry and less harmful to pollinators. We the green industry also has the use of some curative chemistry to use on locations that are not treated preventively. There are ways we can manage key insect pests and greatly reduce the negative effects on honey bees.

### **Conclusion**

So getting back to that question that I deemed invalid in the introduction, “Do I use that pesticide that is killing all the honey bees?” Hopefully you now know that there is more to the loss of honey bees than just pesticides, and yes, I used neonicotinoid insecticide. I cannot rewrite history; However, I can write the next chapter. At Iron Lakes Country Club we have switched to Acelepryn as a preventive white grub tool. We have removed all the turfgrass weeds from the fairways and adjacent turf. Most importantly, Iron Lakes Country Club is part of Operation Pollinator. Operation Pollinator was created more than 10 years ago and is committed to establishing pollinator habitats in North America and Europe. You too can help change the plight of the world’s pollinators. I encourage you to learn about pollinators and plant wildflowers!

Disclaimer ☐

Reference in this publication to any specific commercial product or the manufacture is for general information and not intended to be an endorsement.

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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](mailto:bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com)) and share it for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



## May Photos of the Month

This past winter was just as hard on physical structures and irrigation heads as it was on turf. I know lots of you had swing joints and heads to fix as a result of the significant frost heave.

Thanks to John Chassard at Lehigh C.C. for these pictures!!



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### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Rick Anglemyer** on his new position with TESCO. Rick will be selling hydroseeders in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and D.C. regions.

### PTGA SCHEDULE

May 19	PTGA/Central Golf Meeting Schuylkill CC
June 1	PTGA Golf Meeting Scranton Canoe Club
July 6	PTGA Golf Meeting Glen Oak CC
Aug 31	PTGA Clambake Scranton CC
Sept 15	PTGA Golf Meeting Mt. Laurel GC
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