



CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
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Penn State University wins 2016 Turf Bowl

Penn State University Team 20 took first place in GCSAA's Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition, presented in partnership with John Deere Golf. The foursome of Kirk Bender, Jeff Reggio, Thomas Goyne and Rob Sicinski, along with advisor Ben McGraw, Ph.D., will return to State College, Pa., with the traveling trophy and a \$4,000 prize. Second and third place teams were Team 34 from Cal Poly Pomona and Team 30 from the University of Maryland, respectively.



President's Message.....

What a difference a year makes. Last year most of us spent the first two weeks of March removing snow and ice. Then trying to determine how much grass was healthy and how much didn't make it through the winter. Today a lot of courses in our area are open and starting to show signs of green up. It's going to get very busy, very quickly this spring.

Your Board of Directors has been busy this winter planning the Association's 2016 calendar and events. We should be finalizing the 2016 calendar in the next week or two and will be getting that out to the membership soon. If any vendors would like to sponsor a meeting, please contact Melinda. The Board will also be sitting down with GCSAA on Thursday, March 10 to develop a Strategic Plan to help shape the future of our Association for years to come.

I hope everyone has a great start to the 2016 Golf Season.

Greg Boring

Editor's Notes.....

Welcome to a new year of the newsletter. As always, I'm looking for input....articles, pictures, anecdotes, or whatever. The newsletter works better when others contribute.

Looking forward to a great year....it's already off to a much better start than last year....

Brian Bachman



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National Golf Day—May 18th

Chase Rogan, Mid Atlantic Rep for GCSAA

Interested in attending 2016 National Golf Day?

Have you heard of National Golf Day? It's a pretty cool initiative. It's a day where golf's leading associations come together as a coalition (known as WE ARE GOLF), to celebrate our industry's storied lifetime. It's golf's chance to shine on Capitol Hill, where our elected representatives are undoubtedly courted by countless industries all looking out for Number 1. What makes this day pretty cool for our industry is that we have great information to share with our legislators.

Information like our \$70 billion economy, our \$4 billion annual charitable impact, and numerous environmental and fitness benefits. Industry leaders will meet with members of Congress, the Executive Branch and federal agencies on Capitol Hill to discuss golf's 15,000-plus diverse businesses, 2 million employees, tax revenue creation and tourism value. And this year, National Golf Day is set for **May 18th**.

Having experienced this day first hand, I must say it is an energizing, educational opportunity to not only share what we love about our game, but also valuable time getting further acquainted with our colleagues and the nuances of how our federal government operates. And as the primaries rapidly approach, I understand that many of us may be frustrated with some of the happenings leading up to the election of our new President.

But as Steve Mona, CEO of World Golf Foundation states, it may be more important now than ever to make sure our voices are heard. "With 2016 being an election year, it's even more important for political leaders to understand the impact our industry has on local communities and millions of Americans," said Mona. Further stating, "since our first event in 2008, National Golf Day has educated our nation's lawmakers about the countless benefits of the game and we look forward to continuing this agenda in May."

National Golf Day has been growing ever since its inception, and this year GCSAA would like to extend an invitation for its Class A, SM, or C members to attend the event and be part of meeting with Congressmen and Senators to share information about your particular businesses, and what those businesses mean to your employees, customers, and community.

As we are still working out the logistics of signing up to attend the event, please be on the lookout for further details that will be communicated through various GCSAA channels. And if you can't attend in person, you can still get in on the action by participating in the tweet rally by using #NGD16 and @wearegolf to show your support for the golf industry. So let's gear up for another successful year, and make this the best National Golf Day thus far.



Pocono Turfgrass Association 2016 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, 2016**. 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. The applicant must submit, in writing, why he or she would like to be considered for the scholarship. The essay should include what he or she feels their contribution to the turfgrass field will be.
4. 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, 2016**. 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. The applicant must submit, in writing, why he or she would like to be considered for the scholarship. The essay should include information pertaining to field of study, educational achievement, and future goals with respect to utilization of his or her education.
4. Applicants must include a letter of endorsement from their PTGA relation with their application.

Applications should be submitted to:

Greg Boring
Country Club of Scranton
P. O. Box 269
Clarks Summit, PA 18411



Weird Weather Brings a Funky Look to Greens

Peter H. Dernoeden, Ph. D.

Record high temperatures in December and early January, combined with long periods of rainy and overcast weather, have promoted some unusual diseases as well as some of the “usual suspects.” Purpling of greens in response to freezing temperatures as well as dollar spot, yellow patch (aka cool temperature brown patch) and yellow tuft are fairly common from late autumn to spring. While dollar spot is common, even into November, its continued activity in December 2015 and January 2016 was unprecedented. Bluegreen algae and superficial fairy ring impacted some courses, but I cannot recall ever seeing either in the Dec.-Jan. period. Somewhat surprisingly, I have not observed *Microdochium* patch (aka *Fusarium* patch or pink snow mold), but you may have seen dollar spot, which caused similar symptoms in recent weeks. We are now covered with snow, but several of the aforementioned problems may not disappear, and some new maladies may arise, once the snow recedes.

Purpling of greens (usually only bentgrass, but sometimes perennial biotype annual bluegrass) is due to hard frosts, which amplify the appearance of a purple or bluish-red pigment called anthocyanin. Purpling induced by low temperatures is most prominent among segregated clones in Penncross golf greens, but similar clonal color changes appear in older stands of most other bentgrass cultivars. On close inspection, note that the underside of purple leaves remain mostly green in color. This discoloration causes no harm and turf will regain its green color as temperatures rise in spring. Some superintendents have misdiagnosed this problem as red leaf spot, which is a rare (Penn A-1 reported) disease of creeping bentgrass that only occurs in early summer.

Blue-green algae (aka cyanobacteria) are most common in greens during prolonged overcast, warm and rainy weather in summer. Their growth produces a slimy mat that can act as a gasket to seal off gas and water movement into and out of root-zones. I have long respected the ability of algae to cause problems in greens, and it is my view that the problem should be addressed whenever observed.



Photo 1: **Purple bentgrass clones in a frosted green**

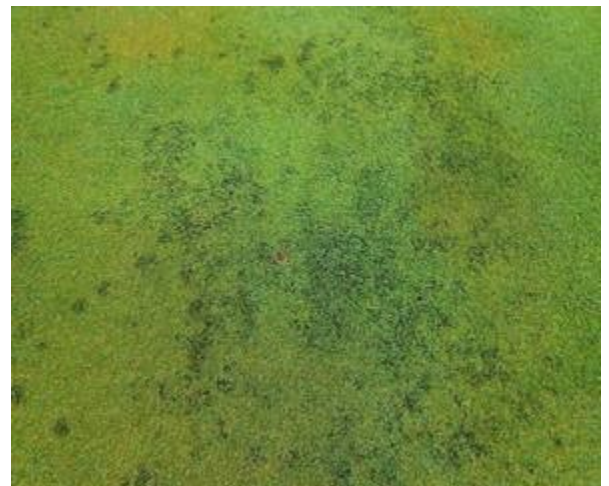


Photo 2: **Bluegreen algae in a golf green in late Dec. 2015**

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Yellow patch is mostly a disease of annual bluegrass and sometimes bentgrass, and mostly is found on greens, but sometimes develops in approaches and fairways. The ring, rather than the solid “patch” symptom, is most common in our region. Rings can be numerous or solitary and yellow or tan in color. Occasionally, rings may have a red or bronze color. The yellow patch pathogen mostly blights leaves, disfiguring turf, but seldom kills plants. A curative application of an appropriate fungicide may not make rings disappear (unless sunny, warm, and dry air conditions move in to promote mowing), but ensures no further damage.

Yellow tuft is another disfiguring disease that seldom kills turf. This pathogen attacks nearly all turfgrasses, but is most prominent in golf greens. The disease appears as yellow spots or tufts, 0.25 to 0.5” in diameter. In low areas where water collects and puddles, infected stands may exhibit a generalized chlorosis. Each spot consists of one or two plants having an excessive number of tillers (sometimes 20 or more), giving plants a tufted appearance. The tufting, or abnormal tiller production, is induced by the pathogen, which causes a shift in the production of a hormone that regulates tillering. Roots of infected plants are short and bunchy, and tufts are easily detached from greens. During cool and moist periods, infected plants develop a yellow color. In warm and dry weather, infected plants regain their green color, lose their tufted habit, and appear amazingly healthy. At this time of year, it is unlikely to see a response from a fungicide. Just live with it; only Jordan Spieth would be distracted by the tufts.



Photo 5: *Yellow tuft in a green; Dec. 2015*



Photo 6: *Excessive tillering due to yellow tuft; Jan., 2016*


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Revisions to Class A Member Standards Approved by Vote of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) voted Feb. 11, 2016, to revise Class A member standards. The membership vote took place as part of the Annual Meeting in San Diego where Peter J. Grass, CGCS, was elected president of the 17,000-member association.

Proposed changes to member standards were first introduced at the 2014 Chapter Delegates Meeting. The proposal was then reworked after the GCSAA Board of Directors received input from constituents at the 2015 Golf Industry Show in San Antonio and throughout 2015.

The vote also involved amendments to the bylaws, which included a new definition of Class A and renaming the Superintendent Member class.

- A new, more inclusive [definition of Class A](#) that will allow individuals to maintain Class A status when they no longer hold a golf course superintendent job, but have secured employment within the golf industry, as long as the ongoing requirements continue to be fulfilled.
- The Superintendent Member (SM) classification will be renamed Class B. By eliminating the Superintendent Member (SM) classification and replacing it with a Class B designation, Class A, Class B, and Class C will be the three professional classifications of membership and will be clearly understandable by employers and influential golfers.

The approved Class A changes include:

- Approved changes to both the eligibility and renewal requirements further demonstrate that education and experience are fundamental to achieving Class A status and enhance the value of Class A status now and in the future.
- The [approved model](#) for Class A eligibility continues to be based on a sliding scale of formal education, superintendent years of experience and continuing education. The scale is based on a combined formula of 20 points, with a set point value assigned to a member's level of formal education and a variable combination of continuing education and experience. Service points will no longer be a component of eligibility.
- Class A renewal requirements continue to necessitate a total of 5 points over a 5-year period. However, they have been enhanced to include a minimum of 3.0 education points rather than the current minimum of 2.0 education points. [Service points](#) for renewal will now be focused on golf-centric activities.
- Possessing a pesticide license or passing the GCSAA IPM Exam will continue to be a requirement of eligibility and renewal. Additionally, the GCSAA IPM Exam fee will be eliminated.
- Class B and C members who were grandfathered as of July 1, 2003, will have until Dec. 31, 2016, to attain Class A status under the previous requirements, after which time they will be required to fulfill the new Class A eligibility requirements.

Grass elected 2016 President of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Lawrence, Kan. (Feb. 11, 2016) – Peter J. Grass, Golf Course Superintendent at Hilands Golf Club in Billings, Mont., has been elected to a one-year term as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) at the association's annual meeting Feb. 11, held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in San Diego.

Grass, a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS), served as vice president of the association in 2015 and has been a member of the association's board of directors since 2009. A 31-year member of GCSAA, Grass also is a member and past president of the Peaks and Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association, one of 98 GCSAA regional chapters.



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Dollar spot damage from the Nov.-Dec. 2015 epidemic remains evident on some golf greens. Typically, in late autumn and early spring (when conditions are chilly) the peripheral areas of spots have a reddish color on greens, which mimic *Microdochium* patch. Dollar spot pits present a long-term problem when they develop before winter. While some plants within pits are killed, turf is resilient and recovers, especially from bentgrass stolons. If you closely inspect a bentgrass pit, you invariably will find a living stolon under or near a pit. In annual bluegrass, there can be one or two surviving plants in pits, but it takes longer for nearby plants to tiller and eventually fill voids. Superficial fairy ring (SFR) is sometimes referred to as "white patch" since in affected greens the disease appears as white, circular patches ranging from 3" to 3' in diameter. The responsible casual agents are in the "mushroom" or "fairy ring" family. At the edge of circular patches, there usually is a 1-2" fringe of more dense white mycelium. SFR normally appears in the mid-Atlantic during warm and wet periods and is most commonly observed under conditions of low nitrogen fertility. In the U.K., however, SFR is more evident in the autumn and winter, and perhaps our unusual weather has caused the disease to develop here in December. Although SFR's are unsightly, the pathogen does not infect plants, but mycelium blocks incoming sunlight causing early senescence of affected leaves. Turf density in affected patches declines, but plants survive. These fungi develop principally in thatch-mat and do not penetrate more than 0.5 to 1.0" into underlying soil.



Photo 7: **Red-pink periphery associated with dollar spot in cold weather; Dec. 2015**



Photo 8: **Superficial fairy ring; Jan. 2016**

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A native of Mankato, Minn., the 56-year-old Grass earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Montana College in Billings. He succeeds John J. O'Keefe, CGCS and director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J., who served as president for 2015. O'Keefe will continue on the board as immediate past president.

"A lot of people have told me how cool they think it is that someone from a 9-hole facility can serve on the board of directors and become president of the association," Grass said. "But if I can convince others that they too can benefit from being a GCSAA member, than I'll consider my year in office to be a success."

Other elected officers were Bill H. Maynard, CGCS and director of golf course maintenance operations at Country Club of St. Albans near St. Louis, as vice president, and Darren J. Davis, CGCS and superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla., as secretary/treasurer.

Kevin P. Breen, CGCS and golf course superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos, Calif., was elected to the board after serving in 2015 as an appointee. He was elected to a two-year position along with Rafael Barajas, CGCS and director of golf course operations at Boca Grove Plantation in Boca Raton, Fla. John Walker, director of golf course maintenance at Bentwater Yacht and Country Club in Montgomery, Texas, was appointed to complete the one-year remaining on Davis' two-year term.

Others continuing service on the nine-member board are John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS and grounds and facilities manager at Kalama-zoo (Mich.) Country Club; and Mark F. Jordan, CGCS and natural resources leader at Westfield Group Country Club in Westfield Center, Ohio.



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).



March Photo of the Month

Take a close look at this beauty....

It's a groundhog with an annual bluegrass weevil trap stuck on its head!!

How does that get recorded on the sheet when counting adult ABW's?

Thanks Chris Snopkowski for this gem.

Lee Kozsey
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POCONO ROUNDUP

Condolences

Our deepest condolences are extended to....

Jeff Hugaboom on the death of his father, Gary Hugaboom, who passed away on February 20.

Gregg Kozar on the death of his father, Michael Kozar, who passed away on February 28.

PTGA SCHEDULE

April TBD	PTGA Meeting @ Mahoning Valley C.C.
May 11	Joint Meeting With Central Penn @ Reading C.C.
June TBD	PTGA Meeting @ Eagle Rock
July TBD	PTGA Meeting @ Mount Airy
August 15	PTGA Annual Meeting and Clambake@ Glenmaura National Golf Club
Sept. TBD	PTGA Meeting @ Huntsville G.C.

Please Note:

The schedule will be completed by March 18. You will receive an email concerning the dates of the meetings, and you can also check the website.

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