



CHIPS & PUTTS

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October Meeting **Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club**

Host: Duane Schell, GCS

Our final meeting of the year brings us to one of the most popular public courses in the area at Blue Ridge Trail. As with many 27 hole facilities, the three 9 hole tracts were built in stages. The original 9 holes were constructed in 1992 with the second 9 holes being built in 1997 to complete the first 18 holes. These 18 holes were designed by architect Brian Ault. The new 9 was designed by architect Dan Schlegel and constructed in 2005. The 3 separate 9's are now all intermingled giving golfers multiple options when they come to play with any combination of the courses totaling around 7,000 yards from the tips.

As you can imagine, with the 27 holes being built over the span of 13 years, there is a variety of grass types, from Penncross/Poa greens on the older holes to L-93 greens on the new 9 there are over 5 acres of greens to go along with 38 acres of rye/poa fairways and 5 more acres of tees.

Blue Ridge Trail is cared for by longtime superintendent (and former PTGA president) Duane Schell. Duane, who is originally from the area, has been at the course for 18 years now.

Duane, who has a Business degree from Bloomsburg as well as his turf degree from Penn State, has worked on a golf course almost his whole life. He started at nearby Sugarloaf Golf Club, then moved on to an internship at Saucon Valley CC, followed by taking the Assistant's job at Doylestown CC. He has been mar-

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President's Message.....

The upcoming event at Blue Ridge Trail should be a great one, and I hope everyone will be able to attend now that the weather is changing in our favor. I know it will be tough for some with leaf clean up, normal maintenance and a skeleton crew, but please try to come out and have a good time with all of us. We all need a break from the grind every once in a while.

Looks like we are finally receiving cooler temps after a week of 70's and 80's in October. Now that the end of the season is near, members will start questioning what steps we are taking to prevent winter kill. I try to stress to my membership that there is nothing I can do to prevent winter kill. I send emails showing our prevention plan, hoping that the reasonable member will understand how uncontrollable the weather is. I know there is not a lot of research out there for winter kill so I thought that maybe we could all do our own. I ask that all supers keep a journal or notes in their phone that contains everything that was done to your greens in preparation for winter. I kept one in the notes section of my phone last year, but it wasn't going to help with the winter we had. I just want to try to compare notes and find something that works for us so that we don't have to worry about grass in January.

Thanks for your time, and I hope to see you all at Blue Ridge Trail.

Gino Marchetti

Editor's Notes.....

The year is winding down and the leaves are falling, but we still have one more great PTGA meeting event to go at Blue Ridge Trail.

Looking forward to seeing many of you there as the season comes to an end.

Brian Bachman



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***More* News from the SRBC**

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) has released a proposed rulemaking to amend its regulations, which includes the release of a consumptive water use mitigation policy. The amendments include application requirements and standards for the review of regulatory projects, modifying the rules dealing with the mitigation of consumptive water use, providing for the registration of grandfathered projects, and revising requirements for hearings and enforcement actions.

To inform the regulated community and the public about these changes, SRBC is holding two informational webinars explaining the proposed rulemaking on October 11, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and October 17, 2016, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to register for the webinars, visit www.srbc.net.

SRBC has also scheduled four public hearings on the proposed rulemaking and policy:

- November 3, 2016, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or at the conclusion of public testimony, whichever is sooner; Pennsylvania State Capitol (East Wing, Room 8E-B), Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17120
- November 9, 2016, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. or at the conclusion of public testimony, whichever is sooner; DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Binghamton (South Riverside Room), 225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY 13901
- November 10, 2016, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. or at the conclusion of public testimony, whichever is sooner; Holiday Inn Williamsport (Gallery Room), 100 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
- December 8, 2016, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or at the conclusion of public testimony, whichever is sooner; Loews Annapolis Hotel (Powerhouse-Point Lookout), 126 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Written comments on the policy may be submitted on or before January 6, 2017. Written comments on the proposed rulemaking may be submitted on or before January 30, 2017. Comments may be submitted by mail to Jason E. Oyler, Esq., General Counsel, SRBC, 4423 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-1788, or by e-mail to regcomments@srbc.net.

If there are others within your organization that need to be informed of this announcement, please forward.

Thank you,

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

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Saying Goodbye To Our Dear Friend.....Jim MacLaren

One of Jim's long time and closest friends, Mr. Shaun Barry, was left to the task of fulfilling Jim's final wish.



Jim MacLaren's ashes were spread at three different locations on the 17th hole at Old Head at Kinsale in Ireland. "Jim had hoped that we would get to play this course together, but when it became apparent that this would not happen he asked for his ashes to be spread out on this particular hole on this particular golf course in Ireland."

To date there has been \$1,465.00 donated on behalf of Jim MacLaren to the PTGA Scholarship fund.

Thank you!!



And the 2016 PTGA Scholarships go to.....

Jordan Seltzer

Health and Physical Ed Major
Messiah College

Devon Carroll

PSU Turf Student



Congratulations!



Continued from Page 1



ried to his wife Mary for 19 years and enjoys spending time with her and their children Kyra (18) and Alex (13).

Assisting Duane in the daily duties of the golf course is Dave Mack (who has been with him for the last 2 years), 3 full time employees, and 15 seasonal employees. In recent years Duane and his crew have undertaken such improvements as redoing #9 Ridge greens complex, renovating #2 Trail fairway bunker, and the continual up-grading and installation of irrigation.

We hope to see you there for our last meeting of the year (which is also our Association Championship!!)



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September Meeting Results



1st Place

T.J. Hart, Jerry Decker
Brian Bachman, Jim Green

2nd Place

Ron Garrison, John Polak
Kelly Kressler, John Chassard

3rd Place

John Downer, Ian Kunesch
Chris Boyle, Mr. Campbell

Longest Drive #18

T.J. Hart

Closest to the Pin - #4 & #17

Steve Chirip

Closest to the Pin - #9

Mr. Campbell

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

At least it's in a sandtrap and not a pond!!

There has to be more of these pictures out there....send me some!!

Thanks Andy Dumas for the contribution.

Lee Kozsey
Turf and Landscape
Territory Manager

syngenta

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POCONO ROUNDUP

Updates

Please be sure to keep us updated with any changes you may have, such as address, telephone number, email, new job, etc. We can't keep you informed of what is going on with the Association if we don't have your current information.


Thank you!

PTGA SCHEDULE

- Oct 26 PTGA Mtg@Blue Ridge Trail
- Nov 15-17 PSU Turf Conference
State College
- Dec 6-8 NJ Green Expo
Atlantic City

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