



# CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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## September Meeting

### **Mt. Airy Golf Club**

Host: Andy Faist, GCS

The original Mount Airy Lodge opened in the early 1950's and holds a place in history as the cornerstone of the legendary Pocono Mountain vacation retreats. Considered America's premier "honeymoon hide-way" for almost half a century, Mount Airy Lodge once had 890 hotel rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, archery, sports center and a variety of other recreational activities.

In the late 1970's, resort owners developed the 18-hole Mount Airy Golf Club to add to the long list of resort amenities. A premier golf course for its day, the eighteen holes of Mount Airy were said to be designed after the 1966 Sports Illustrated article "The 18 Best Holes in the United States."

With the decline of Pocono Mountain tourism in the 1980's and 1990's, Mount Airy Lodge would eventually go into foreclosure in 1999. As the original hotel and much of the property fell into disrepair, the golf course would remain open as bank management companies sought a buyer for the property.

In 2004, the property was purchased by Dunmore businessman, Louis DeNaples, with the ambition of redeveloping Mount Airy into a casino/resort under Pennsylvania's newly approved gaming laws.

Over the next several years, the entire original Mount Airy Lodge was demolished and subsequently replaced with the new Mount Airy Casino-Resort. Opening in 2007, the four-star resort includes a casino with

Continued on page 6.....



## President's Message.....

First, I would like to thank Greg Boring for his years of service as President of the Association. His term was during some of the toughest times courses in the Northeast have ever seen. I look forward to continuing the great service the Association has brought to our members in the past.

The past few weeks have brought many challenges to courses in our area with wet wilt, mechanical damage and various diseases. Just know that everyone has been affected in some way on their course. If there is anything that we as an Association can do to help with repair or your membership concerns, please don't be afraid to ask us for help. We are all here to support one another when times are tough. Please email or call me or any Board member, and we will do our very best to help or direct you to someone who can.

The good news is that the weather is finally changing and the geese are flying south, so let's all finish this year strong.

*Gino Marchetti*

## Editor's Notes.....

September is supposed to be easier.....here's to hoping it actually gets easier soon.

Thanks for all the pictures this year.....keep sending them.

*Brian Bachman*



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## News from the SRBC

The purpose of this message is to notify you that on June 16, 2016, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) adopted a new Regulatory Program Fee Schedule, effective July 1, 2016. Please visit the Commission's website at [www.srbc.net](http://www.srbc.net) to view the Regulatory Program Fee Schedule.

Significant changes include:

- Simplified the Regulatory Program Fee Schedule by consolidating project review application, modification, and renewal fees into a single table.
- Increased standard groundwater application fees by 10 percent and municipal groundwater application fees by 3 percent.
- Reduced Approval by Rule [18 CFR § 806.22(f)] application and renewal fees by 20 percent.
- Added Minor Modifications as defined in 18 CFR § 806.18 to the Regulatory Program Fee Schedule.
- Changed the application of the Annual Compliance and Monitoring Fee from each approved project to each approved facility, and added a municipal discount for the fee.
- Increased Consumptive Use Mitigation Fee (Table 3) from \$0.325 per 1,000 gallons consumed to \$0.33 per 1,000 gallons consumed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Commission at (717) 238-0423 or via e-mail at [srbc@srbc.net](mailto:srbc@srbc.net).

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

Thank you!

Susquehanna River Basin Commission



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# Outbreak of Mysterious Pythium Disease on Golf Courses

By: Dr. John Kaminski, Penn State  
From Turfdiseases.org. August 26th 2016



This week I visited a couple of golf courses that are dealing with serious disease issues. After looking at the samples and touring the courses, I have determined that this is likely similar to what I found in the NY Met region in 2005.

## Pythium mimics summer patch

In 2005, I observed some unique disease symptoms on a few golf courses that looked like summer patch. However, traditional summer patch fungicides didn't control it. Upon closer examination our lab determined that we were dealing with a species of Pythium that was selectively taking out the annual bluegrass in mixed bent/Poa stands. Some key info (watch the slideshare for more info):

- Patch disease caused by a Pythium species
- Symptoms are identical with summer patch (bentgrass fills in damaged patches)
- Signature programs the primary Pythium fungicide being used
- Foliar Banol or Segway is recommended for curative control (don't water-in)
- Follow initial spray 3-5 days later with Segway or Subdue Maxx

Over the next few years we continued to talk about this problem, but it basically went away. Apparently it's back. Here's a slideshare of what I talked to golf course superintendents about based on the limited information we had at the time.

Our lab is now actively seeking samples of this disease in an effort to concentrate research time to identify the pathogen and find management options.

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Continued from page 1....

2500 slot machines, casino table games, a 188-room hotel, spa, restaurants ranging from casual to high end Italian and steak house....and of course the original golf course.

The early stages of development of the \$412 million Mount Airy Casino-Resort project saw little attention directed toward the golf course, as focus was understandably on the revenue generating foundations of the casino and hotel.

Recent years have seen a firm commitment by management to invest in the golf course and bring it back to its original glory as Mount Airy Casino-Resort once again seeks to establish itself as a premier resort destination in the Poconos.

Since 2010, the Mount Airy Golf Club has seen the installation of a new irrigation system, re-surfacing of cart paths, extensive tree work, new equipment purchases, a new clubhouse, new putting green, and an increased maintenance budget.

Mt. Airy is overseen by Superintendent Andy Faist, who has been there for 10 years. Assisted by Dio Alvarez, they supervise an in-season staff of 9 on the par 71 golf course and another 4 just for the casino landscaping. Andy, originally from the New England area and a UMASS grad, uses his history as an assistant at three different clubs, including Glenmaura, to manage the 6500 yards of poa/bent greens, rye/poa tees, and Heinz 57 fairways at Mt. Airy.

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## August Meeting Results



### 1st Place - 55\*

Tony Barletta, Jake Popowicz  
Josh Popowicz & Duane Schell

### 2nd Place - 55

TJ Hart, Jerry Decker & Chase Rogan

### 3rd Place - 61\*

Barry Goodhart, Shaun Marcellus,  
Jamie Devers & Brian Cross

\*Denotes U&SGA Method  
for match of cards.

### Closest to the Pin - #2

Mark Brown 3'1"

### Closest to the Pin - #7

Fred Hutterer 9'0"

### Closest to the Pin - #9

Les Lear 11'8"

### Closest to the Pin - #11

Josh Popowicz 5'8"

### Closest to the Pin - #15

Jamie Devers 6'10"

### Skins (4 Total Skins)

#### Team 2A

(Hart, Decker, Rogan)  
Eagle #1 & #6

#### Team 12A

(Schell, Barletta, Popowicz,  
Popowicz)  
Eagle #16 & #18

### Longest Drive - #14

Jerry Decker

## 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).



## September Photo of the Month

This unfortunate snapping turtle was stuck in this drain pipe after some of the heavy rainfalls back in late July/early August.

Thanks to our friend Shaun Barry for sending this picture from Toms River C.C. in NJ. (The crew ultimately did set the turtle free.)



## A Super's Observations with Etiolation

By Dr. John Kaminski, Penn State  
From: Turfdiseases.org, July 28th, 2016



A couple of weeks ago, Scott Blough from Nassau Country Club asked me about the impact of applying DMIs on turf that was showing symptoms of etiolation. While I had heard varying thoughts on this from the industry, my only real suggestion was, "Go ahead and try and let me know what happens." Well here's Scott's response to what he observed with his etiolation issues that started to show up earlier this month.

"As soon as the weather changed from being dry to more humid, etiolation began to develop in certain areas of my Alpha, A1 and A4 greens. It started in the collars and moved to the greens only in areas with little to no morning sun. All greens were sprayed up for Pythium Root Dysfunction and Rot. There was labeled rate of Primo applied just prior to the start of the etiolation. Once the weather turned cooler, 2 oz/m of Banner Maxx was applied and left on the surface. All etiolation disappeared shortly after the application and has not developed again. Strictly Trimmit was applied after this and Primo was completely taken out of the program. Ammonium Sulfate was also not used any more.

The decline has subsided and are now in recovery. The key to the recovery is stopping the algae from setting in by using Daconil and Fore in rotation. Eliminating the Ammonium Sulfate, even if watering in, and also Primo. Spraying Trimmit has also helped. It is good to spend the time to scratch the decaying leaf blades and raise them up to allow air and also new plants to emerge in the declining areas. I feel it is important to not apply P, because it seems to encourage the algae growth. Also, remove trees that prevent morning sunlight on Bentgrass greens."

Scott Blough, Superintendent Nassau Country Club

While these are only observations, Scott's take home message for his issue was to remove ammonium sulfate and Primo from his program and that the DMI application appeared to knock back or prevent additional etiolation symptoms. While these are anecdotal observations, at this point I think superintendents are willing to try anything as there doesn't seem to be a lot of research based management options out there.



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# POCONO ROUNDUP

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Pat Healey**, Superintendent at Scranton Canoe Club, and his wife Marissa, on the birth of their daughter, Grace Maryanna, who was born on Friday, September 16.

## PTGA SCHEDULE

- Sept 13 PTGA Meeting @ Mt. Airy
- Sept 26 Met Tournament @ Scranton C.C.
- Oct 26 PTGA Meeting@ Blue Ridge Trail
- Nov 15-17 PSU Turf Conference

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