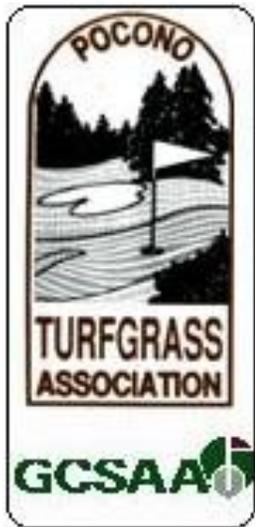


# Chips & Putts

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2018 Issue



[www.ptga.org](http://www.ptga.org)



## *In This Issue*

**MET Championship Recap**

Pocono Turfgrass Association was founded in 1936.



## President's Message.....

Greetings,

Wow, what a wet year it has been for everyone! I hope you made it through without issues. I would like to thank Gino Marchetti for serving as our President for the past two years. A job well done! Gino will remain on our Board for the next two years to fill the position of Past President. A special thanks to Board member Chris Passenti for stepping up and volunteering to take over my former position as Treasurer. I would like to welcome Tom Height and thank him for volunteering and being elected as a Board member of our Association. Additionally, I would like to thank Chris Reverie for accepting his role as Chapter Delegate. More information from Chris regarding the Chapter Delegates meeting soon.

I am honored to become your chapter President, and I thank you for this opportunity. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can help you in any way. I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season, and I look forward to seeing you next year.

*Patrick D. Healey, Jr.*

## Editor's Notes.....

The end of the 2018 growing season is finally here!

I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

See you all next year!

*Les Lear*



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*2018 MET Team Championship  
Hamilton Farm Golf Club  
Gladstone, NJ*





## The METGCSA Wins 2018 MET Area Team Championship at Hamilton Farm GC

In what could possibly be the first time in the history of the championship, the MetGCSA wins the MET Area Team Championship at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, New Jersey! The championships continue to be highly competitive and this year was no different! The MetGCSA, led by the low gross team of Steve Rabideau and Sean Cain, narrowly defeated the defending champions from Connecticut by 2 strokes!

Jason Harrison, Director of Golf and Grounds at Hamilton Farm Golf Club hosted this year's championship and despite non-stop rain all year long had the golf course in fantastic shape! Jason and his team had the greens smooth and slick which proved to be challenging to many competitors this year!

Hamilton Farm, one of the premier courses in New Jersey was designed by famed environmental architects Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry and was sculpted into the rolling terrain of central NJ just 50 miles outside of New York City. Hamilton Farm has some beautiful vistas and architecturally stunning looks shaped by the bunkering of Fry. The 6<sup>th</sup> hole was recently selected by Golf Digest as part of the Best 18 Holes around the New York area!

Rabideau and Cain teamed with Steve Loughran and Tom Ashfield on the gross side and Steve McGlone, Dave Conrad, Josh Haugh and Blake Halderman on the Net side. All 4 groups provided solid performances for the METGCSA, breaking 80 in every pairing with McGlone and Conrad shooting 2 under on the Net side.

Year after year, the Met Area Team Championship has been made possible by our 7 major sponsors who continue to step up to make this one of the best events across North America. Please join me in thanking BASF, Bayer, The Care of Trees, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Ocean Organics, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this wonderful event.

The MET Area Team Championship continues to raise money each year to help those in our industry going through difficult times. Over the past 8 years we have raised over \$10,000 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives and their families in times of need. Last year we donated \$1,500 to the South Texas GCSA to help families affected by Hurricane Harvey. Thank you to all that support these efforts with the 50/50 raffles! If you know of anyone in need, please let us know.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Jason Harrison and his entire staff and all the folks at Hamilton Farm GC for another successful championship! A special thank you to our local GCSAA representative Kevin Doyle for help with registration and Shaun Barry for the great photos as usual! Photos can be found at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/165914522@N02/shares/2g9994>.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year; so stay tuned for announcements over the winter!

**Note: Please save the date for the Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington Mountain on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019!!**

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**2018 MET Area Team Championships**  
**Hamilton Farm GC**  
**Par 72**  
**October 22, 2018**

<u>Team Scores</u> Par 288	<u>Score</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> METGCSA	296
2 <sup>nd</sup> Connecticut AGCS	298
3 <sup>rd</sup> GCSA of New Jersey	301
4 <sup>th</sup> Long Island GCSA	303
5 <sup>th</sup> Philadelphia AGCS	304
6 <sup>th</sup> GCSA of Cape Cod	308
7 <sup>th</sup> Central New York GCSA	316
8 <sup>th</sup> Pocono Turfgrass Association	317
9 <sup>th</sup> Hudson Valley GCSA	319
10 <sup>th</sup> Northeastern GCSA	321
11 <sup>th</sup> GCSA of New England	324
12 <sup>th</sup> Eastern Shore AGCS	329
13 <sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic AGCS	376

**Skill Events**

Closest to the pin hole #3, sponsored by Toro	Tom Height 4'-10" – Pocono TA
Closest to the pin hole #7, sponsored by Syngenta	Ryan Howard 1'-0" – Eastern Shore AGCS
Closest to the pin hole #12, sponsored by Koch T&O	Tom Height 3'-7" – Pocono TA
Closest to the pin hole #17, sponsored by Bayer	Tom Kaplun 7'-6" – Long Island GCSA

**Long Drive**

Hole # 9: Gross Division sponsored by The Care of Trees	Luke Knutson – Long Island GCSA
Hole # 14: Net Division sponsored by Ocean Organics	Nick Waldner – Hamilton Farm GC
Hole # 18: Sponsors Division, sponsored by BASF	Tom Currie – Bayer

**Low Gross Team**

Steve Rabideau & Sean Cain from METGCSA Score of 73

**Sponsorship Team Winner**

Scott Anderson & Joe Scioscia from Hamilton Farm Score of 70

**Two Man Team High Score**

Net	Mike O'Neil & Joe Lucas – Northeastern GCSA	Score of 83
	Todd Cowning & Chris Fronczek – Eastern Shore AGCS	Score of 83
Gross	Ryan Kraushofer & Josh Fuhman – Mid-Atlantic AGCS	Score of 123



# *Boring to Baltusrol!*



Tuesday, November 20

## News Flash



### **New Director of Grounds**



We are pleased to announce that Gregory L. Boring has accepted the position of Director of Grounds & Golf Maintenance for the Club. Greg comes to us from The Country Club of Scranton, where he has served as their Golf Course Superintendent since 2008, and, since 2016, as their Director of Clubhouse and Grounds Operations. Prior to his role at The Country Club of Scranton, Greg had experience at Glen Oak Country Club, Preakness Hills Country Club, Johns Island Club, Oakmont Country Club and The Pete Dye Golf Club.

Greg plans to come on board at Baltusrol on or about January 14th and hopes to come to the Club a few times before his official start date to meet with our staff. We are delighted that we were able to attract a candidate with the talent and experience that Greg possesses.

The decision to hire Greg was made after a very extensive recruiting process led by our Search Committee following the announcement of Mark Kuhns' retirement. The Committee was comprised of Chairman, Matt Wirths; Club President, Rick Shea; Roddy McRae; Kevin Vitale; and Ryan Fountaine. Working very closely with our retained search firm, Kopplin Kuebler & Wallace, the Search Committee spent countless hours reviewing qualifications and backgrounds of potential candidates, along with significant time spent on face-to-face interviews with a large group of excellent candidates.

We want to thank the members of the Search Committee for their time and devotion to this important project.

*The Board of Governors*



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## Opinions Vary on Solid Tine vs. Core Aerification

*Posted By: John Reitman*

When Joel Kachmarek says he spends a lot of time venting on his greens, he's not talking about anger management issues associated with poor putting conditions. In fact, it's quite the opposite. After nearly two decades, Kachmarek couldn't be happier with the putting conditions at Tacoma Country and Golf Club.

"No more hollow tine aeration," Kachmarek said. "I haven't done any of that since 2013. Our greens are almost 120 years old, and they're the best they've ever been."

There are differing schools of thought on aerifying greens - namely whether to pull a core, and what to do with them after extracting them.

Kachmarek, a 19-year veteran of the club in Lakewood, Washington, wasn't always a devotee of solid tining. He tried it initially as a way to stretch the season for golfers.

"That whole thing was facilitated by me wanting to get the greens leaner. I was just tired of watching the greens heal. When coring with hollow tines, it takes three to four weeks to heal. That's not cool for membership," Kachmarek said. "I wanted the greens to be good for them for more days out of the year. I didn't want to take away that perfect stretch of weather in the spring and that last stretch in the fall. I was always looking for a way to make this less painful for golfers."

Through the years, he's gone from removing as much material as possible to aerating with solid tines at varying depths.

"When I first started, I was on the other side of the spectrum where I was trying to figure out how to remove more material each time," Kachmarek said. "Now, I've really gone backwards the other way."

It's a philosophy made popular by Roch Gaussoin, Ph.D., of the University of Nebraska, who for years has disputed the need to pull a core on greens. It also is one that works well for Kachmarek in the Pacific Northwest, but he admits might not be for everyone.

"Everybody should do it, but I don't think it would work everywhere," he said. "But I do think a lot of people would like to see if they could modify what they're doing."

Venting and aerifying with solid tines are important components of Fred Gehrish's regime at Highlands Falls Country Club in western North Carolina, but they're just that - part of his program. So are core aerification and dry injection of sand topdressing.

"I believe aerification is more than just a single type of aerification," Gehrish said. "I'm a believer in core aerification and a believer in DryJect. I don't think one works that well without the other. I think it takes a combination of all types to be successful."

At Laurel Creek Country Club in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, John Slade runs DryJect over the greens usually in early May. With the end of the golf season in view, he core aerifies in mid-August.

*Continued on Page 9*




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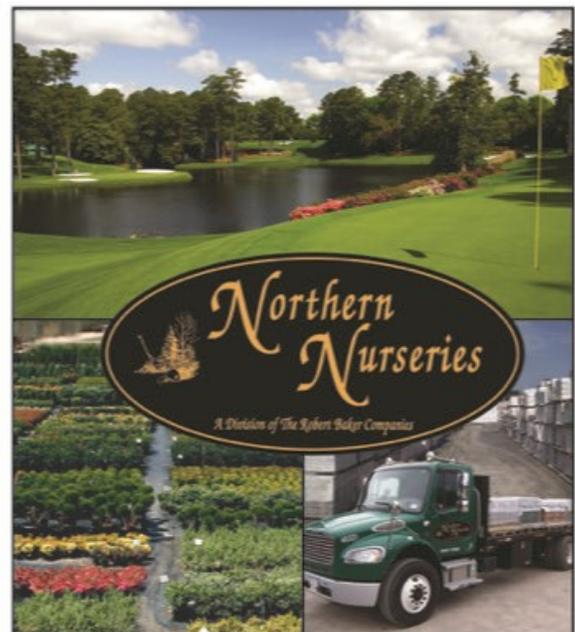
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Continued from Page 7

"In this area, people are all over the map, and it all has to do with the golf schedule," Slade said. "I've always said, 'you can aerify in March and you'll look good in May, or you can aerify in May and you'll look good in May.' You're going to look at holes for a long time if you aerify in March.

"Because the greens are under stress in August, I don't want to put giant holes in the ground that are going to struggle to recover. Some guys wait until October because of golf. In that case, you're probably looking at holes all winter. Personally, I think what we are doing now is as good as we can do to help the greens make it through the summer."

In Tacoma, Kachmarek does not see the dramatic weather swings that necessitate such cultural practices on golf courses on the country's east coast or, for that matter, the eastern edge of Washington.

"Growing *Poa* in this climate in the Northwest, I know it works. You can't push nitrogen if you do this," Kachmarek said. "Hollow tines create vigor in the turf, and that is important. If your greens already are healthy and have adequate sunlight, then I should never feel the need to increase vigor."

As much as core aeration helps Gehrish provide optimal conditions at Highlands Falls, he's nearly as concerned about the effects of a program that wouldn't include it - namely all that sand going into the profile and nothing coming back out.

"You're putting all that material down and taking nothing out. At some point you are changing the shape of your green," he said. "That's a physical fact, and I don't see how you can maintain that. Eventually, it won't be the same green it was designed to be."

That has occurred to Kachmarek, as well.

"What will it take, 100 years of doing this to elevate a green 2 inches? It would be a soft build-up, not a ledge. And is that bad?" he said. "I don't know. I don't see it as a bad thing.

"That's part of golf. Golf courses change. Weather, trees, architects all come in and change things. Golf courses are living things, they're not meant to be created and remain static forever. What we do to golf courses and what Mother Nature does to golf courses is part of golf, and it's part of what is cool about it: It's forever changing."



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### July Meeting Results - Elkview C.C.



**1st Place** - T.J. Hart

**2nd Place** - Tom Moore/Brett Wagner

**5th Place** - Russell Hauenstein/John Vojick

**8th Place** - Jerry Decker/Don Peters

**Closest to the Pin**

#7 Ed Ladamus 11'9"  
#9 Tom Collum 19'8"  
#12 Brett Wagner 24'  
#16 Ed Ladamus 18'7"

**Longest Drive**

Jerry Decker

### August Meeting Results - Glenmaura National G.C.



**1st Place Team - 56**

T.J. Hart, Mike Bednard, Russell Hauenstein, Theresa

**10th Place Team - 64**

Todd Moyer, Larry Helwig, Rob Fuller, Steve Matula

**2nd Place Team - 57**

Jim Lanza, Kevin Rogers, Ryan Manley, Mike Bonavaglia

**15th Place Team - 67**

Bryan Nuss, Jeff Moore, Will Ripley, Steve C

**Closest to the Pin**

#2 Chuck Garnett 3'8"  
#9 Jeff Koch 8'1"  
#15 Tom Wilchak 12'3"

**Longest Drive - #14**

T.J. Hart

### October Meeting Results - Allentown Muni G.C.



**SUPERINTENDENTS**

**1st Place** - Ian Kunesch 78

**2nd Place** - Tom Height 80

**AFFILIATES**

**1st Place** - Dave vanLeeuwen 74

**2nd Place** - T.J. Hart 75

**Closest to the Pin**

#5 Les Lear 10'7"  
#9 Brian Cross 11'9"  
#16 Kyle Krause 16'  
#11 Les Lear 6'

**Longest Drive**

Rob Muth



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## POCONO ROUNDUP

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Mike & Ashley Darby** from Eagle Rock Resort on the birth of their son Jackson David Darby on November 12, 2018.

Our former President **Greg Boring** from the Country Club of Scranton has accepted the Director of Grounds and Golf Maintenance position at the prestigious Baltustrol Golf Club in Springfield Township, NJ. Greg will be filling in the shoes of highly respected Mark Kuhns following his retirement.

### PTGA SCHEDULE

- Dec. 4-6** NJTA Green Expo Conference & Trade Show @ The Borgata Hotel
- Jan. 16** Eastern PA Turf Conference @ Shady Maple Conference Center
- Jan. TBD** Northeast PA Turfgrass Conference @ The Woodlands Resort
- Feb. 2-7** GCSAA Golf Industry Show @ San Diego Convention Center

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