

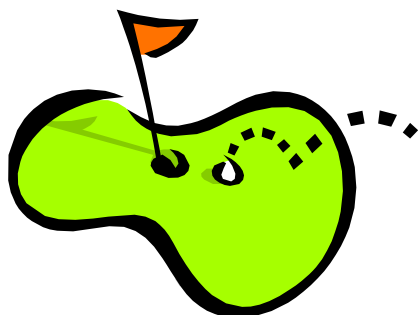
# FRONT NINE NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 1

March 2011

A quarterly publication of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association, Inc.

## March Business Meeting Thursday, March 17, 2011 (Yes, this is St. Patrick's Day)



### Place:

Venango Valley Inn & Golf Course  
Route 19  
Venango, PA 16440

### Directions:

**From the South:** From I-79, take the Saegertown Exit heading East on Rt. 198 towards Saegertown. Go approximately 3 miles to a "T" intersection. Turn left on Rt. 19 heading towards Venango. Venango Valley Inn is another 3 miles on the left.

**From the North:** Take Rt. 19 through the town of Venango. Venango Valley Inn is just outside of town on the right.

### Inside This Issue

#### Chapter News:

Presidents Message **Page 3**  
Snow Mold Survey **Page 6**

#### PA News:

Other PA Mtg. Dates **Page 8**  
Allegheny College Conf. **Page 9**

#### National News:

Golf Industry Show **Page 10**

#### FYI:

Flogton **Page 12**  
Goats on Course **Page 14**

### MEETING AGENDA

4:00-5:00 PM Social Hour

5:00 PM Buffet Dinner  
(w/St. Patrick's Day fare)

6:00 PM Business Meeting

Meeting Fee - \$35

Dress Code: Casual Attire

Bar on site.

Open guest policy for all  
members

Credit cards accepted by  
Venango Valley

### Host Superintendent, Durbin Loreno

RSVP to Julie by March 14th  
at (724) 421-7588

**NOTE:** While reservations are needed for food preparation, last minute reservations are understood due to the nature of the turf industry. We have never turned anyone away.

**IF THERE IS A CHECK IN  
THIS BOX, WE HAVE NOT  
RECEIVED YOUR 2011 DUES.**



**DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY  
MARCH 15TH TO BE LISTED IN  
THE 2011 DIRECTORY.**

### NWPGCSA 2011 Committees

Meetings/Education  
Wayne Rodgers/Mike Bochert

Membership  
Jerry Rice

Welfare  
Dave Stull/Julie Powell

Employment  
Jerry Rice

Finance  
Rob Goring

GCSAA/PGCSA  
Dave Stull/Joe Giardina

Scholarship/Research  
Durbin Loreno

Nominations/Ethics  
Dave Stull

### GCSAA LIAISONS

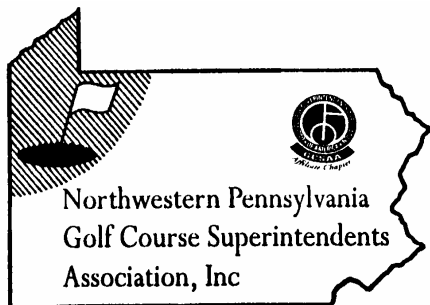
Certification Attester  
Joe Giardina

Education Programming  
Mike Bochert

First Tee Program  
Durbin Loreno

Government Relations  
Dave Stull

Media/Public Relations  
Julie Powell



**2011 Officers & Directors**

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David M. Stull, CGCS  
The Kahkwa Club of Erie

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Oakland Beach Golf Club

**Secretary/Treasurer**

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Whispering Woods Golf Club

**Directors**

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Course

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Lawrence Park Golf Club

Michael L. Bochert  
Elk Valley Golf Course

**Commercial Director**

Wayne Rodgers  
Hodges Rash Company, Inc.

**Past President**

Dominic "Joe"Giardina, CGCS  
New Castle Country Club

**Executive Secretary/  
Newsletter Editor**

Julie Powell  
(724) 421-7588  
nwpgcsa@zoominternet.net  
www.nwpgcsa.com



# A BIG THANK YOU

**To the following commercial  
members who donated  
toward our  
Summertime Widows Party**

\*\*\*\*\*

## \$225 Level

**Bayer Environmental Science: Chris Farrell  
Syngenta: Jon Cuny**

## \$100 Level

**E. H. Griffith: Paul LaMarca, Jim Powell,  
Tony Horvath**

**Walker Supply: Bill Walker, Bob Windsheimer,  
Dan Olson, Keith Perl**

**Sunburst Turf Solutions: Mike Nati, Jim Patterson,  
Doston Kish**

**Hodges Rash Company: Hodges Rash,  
Wayne Rodgers**

**Best Sand Sports Turf Products: Terry Gwinn  
John Deere Golf: Pat Hassey, Fred Marklow,  
Matt Fitch**

**Select Source: Mike Blatt**

**Maple Moutain Equipment: Bill Degitz  
TeamTurf Supply: Mark Conklin**

## Door Prize Winners:

**Kindle: Nicole Cuny**

**Mini Video Camera: Jay Mathews**

**MP3 Player: Buddy Stallone**



## Our New Members

### Keith Perl

Class D  
326 S. Peninsula Drive  
Central City, PA 15926  
(814) 754-4458

### Walker Supply, Inc.

PO Box 126  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
(800) 792-5537  
Fax: (412) 221-4011  
Cell: (412) 889-8880  
Email: keithperl@comcast.net

### Tim Zimmerman

Class D  
Spouse: Blythe  
144 Shannon Drive  
New Castle, PA 16105  
(724) 656-8785

### GC Supply, Inc.

3587 Clover Lane  
New Castle, PA 16105  
(724) 658-1741, ext. 283  
Fax: (724) 658-2940  
Email:  
tzimmerman@golfcarsupply.net

### Mark Conklin

Class D  
5310 Cristivo Drive  
Erie, PA 16506  
(814) 838-5141

### TeamTurf Supply

11008 Rt. 19 North  
Waterford, PA 16441  
(814) 796-8873  
Fax: (814) 796-8873  
Email: turfmark@yahoo.com

### Tyler Kenyhercz

Class D  
113 Penn Woods Court  
Irwin, PA 15642  
(724) 744-7728

### Keystone Turf Products

1014 Corporate Lane  
Export, PA 15632  
(724) 733-0829  
Fax: (724) 733-0926  
Cell: (724) 552-7314  
Email: tyler@keystoneturf.com

### Steve Marofsky

Class D  
Spouse: Kristen  
116 Rowe Road  
Harrison City, PA 15636  
(724) 864-5528

### Keystone Turf Products

1014 Corporate Lane  
Export, PA 15632  
(724) 733-0926  
Fax: (724) 733-0926  
Cell: (412) 334-8413  
Email: steve@keystoneturf.com

### Keith Collier

Class D  
3201 Sample Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148  
**TerraLinks, Inc.**  
105 McQuiston Drive  
Jackson Center, PA 16133  
(724) 662-0400  
Email: keith@terra-links.com

## NWPGCSA, Inc. 2011 Meeting Schedule

Sunday, January 30th  
Summertime Widows Party  
Venango Valley Inn & GC  
Venango, PA  
Host: Durbin Loreno

Thursday, March 17th  
March Business Meeting  
Venango Valley Inn & GC  
Venango, PA  
Host: Durbin Loreno

Thursday, April 21st  
Formal Golf Meeting  
The Greens at Greenville  
Greenville, PA  
Host: Dick Bartel

Thursday, June 9th  
Formal Golf Meeting  
Elk Valley Golf Course  
Girard, PA  
Host: Mike Bochert

July Meeting (date tba)  
Joint mtg w/GPGCSA  
Grove City Country Club  
Grove City, PA  
Host: Jay Mathews

July or August (date tba)  
Barbara J. Sternwheeler  
Riverboat Cruise  
Conneaut Lake, PA

September Meeting (date tba)  
New Castle Country Club  
New Castle, PA  
Host: Joe Giardina

Tuesday, October 4th  
Annual Meeting  
Cross Creek Resort  
Titusville, PA  
Host: Buddy Stallone

## Welcome to NWPGCSA!

## Our Heartfelt Sympathy to . . .

. . . Dick Bartel and his family on the loss of his mother, Lida, who passed away on January 24, 2011. Dick is the superintendent at The Greens at Greenville in Greenville, PA.

. . . the family and friends of Mike DiJirolanio who passed away on February 15, 2011. Mike was a former NWPGCSEA member and most recently was self-employed with Aarmark Turf Supplies in Allison Park, PA.

## Our Heartfelt Congratulations to . . .

. . . Chris and Kate Farrell on the birth of their first child, a son named Conor, on January 12, 2011. Chris is the field sales representative for Bayer Environmental Science operating from his home office in Pittsburgh, PA.

Editor's Notes



Dear NWPGCSEA,

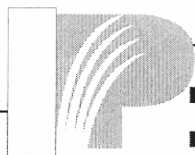
### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Hopefully by now, you all are aware that our NWPGCSEA scholarships are open to both turf AND non-turf students of ANY NWPGCSEA member. Both turf and non-turf scholarship applications are available online at [www.nwpgcsea.com](http://www.nwpgcsea.com) by clicking on "Services" or by calling me at (724) 421-7588.

The deadline for scholarship applications will be July 1, 2011. If you have a turf student in your employ, or if you have a child or grandchild who would like to apply for a turf or non-turf scholarship, please don't let this opportunity pass by.

Julie Powell

Exec. Sec./Newsletter Ed.



# PrimeTime™

Broadleaf weeds don't stand a chance against the unique blend of three active ingredients in PrimeraOne PrimeTime herbicide. An ultimate three way combination, PrimeTime delivers broadleaf weed control any time during the season with the benefit of reduced risk to ornamentals and dicamba sensitive plants.

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WALKER  
SUPPLY INC.



(Continued from page 6)

Originally, the information asked for was the products, the rates, and the timing of snow mold preventatives. In addition, I asked

if any fertilizer was applied at the same time, and if so, what analysis and at how many pounds of N. I said that no one would be named and no brand

names would be used, but my anonymous helper told me “pre-mixes” would be too confusing to list without using brand names so you’ll see some below. *Julie Powell*

#	AREA	PRODUCTS	RATES / M.	DATE	NOTES / RESULTS
1	G	Instrata	5 oz.	Early November	Great results with both. Sprayer “miss” areas are covered with Snow Mold.
	T	Interface	6 oz.		
2	G	Propiconazole Iprodione	2 oz. 4 oz.	Early November	Great results on all but 1 green. The first green sprayed had moderate control. Maybe didn’t mix properly?
3	G / T	FF 2	4.5 lbs	Early November	
	F	Chlorothalonil flo Propiconazole	5 oz. 3 oz.	Mid November	
4	G	TM + IP E-Pro	4 oz.	Early November	Controlled Pink, but not Grey Snow Mold.
		FF 3	5.8 lbs.	Mid February	Late application due to snow cover.
	T	Thiophanate-Methyl Iprodione	2 oz. 4 oz.	Mid November	80% control.
	F	PCNB	12 oz.	Mid November	75% control. Some Grey on bentgrass
5	G	Chlorothalonil wdg Iprodione	1.25 oz 2.5 oz.	Late October	This was the 2009 application. First time doing a “split” application which added a early “pre” application. Zero snow mold, best results ever.
		PCNB	14.5 oz.	Mid November	
	G	Instrata	2.5 oz.	Early November	2010 application. Late on the early application. Great results again.
		Concert	10 oz.	Early November	
6	G	Propiconazole Chlorothalonil wdg Iprodione	2 oz. 5 oz. 4 oz.		
		T	26/36 Chlorothalonil wdg	4 oz. 4 oz.	
	F	PCNB	?		
7	G	Thiophanate-Methyl Propiconazole Chlorothalonil wdg	6 oz. 2 oz. 2 oz.	Mid November (early enough for plant uptake)	
8	F	Thiophanate-Methyl Propiconazole Iprodione	2.3 oz. 2 oz. 4 oz.		
	G / T	Instrata	½ rate		Applied different products due to weather. Switched to granular after snow fell (had to shovel greens).
FF 2		normal			
9	G	Interface Triticonazole 70% ai	6.15 oz. 0.23 oz.	Mid November	
		T	Junction PCNB Triticonazole 19.2 % ai		3.5 oz. 3 oz. 0.88 oz.
	F	Interface Triticonazole 70% ai	4 oz. 0.2 oz.		

## OTHER 2011 MEETING SCHEDULES

(In an effort to avoid conflicting dates and assist our multiple association members)

### Greater Pittsburgh GCSA's 2011 Schedule

- March 14th - Nemaocolin Woodlands Shooting Academy
- April Mtg - tba
- May 23rd - Scholarship & Research Tournament, Allegheny Country Club
- June Mtg - tba
- July Mtg - Joint w/ Northwestern PA GCSA at Grove City Country Club, date tba
- August 6th - Family Outing, PNC Park
- September Mtg - tba
- October 17th - Annual Meeting, Green Oaks Country Club

### Mountain & Valley GCSA's 2011 Schedule

- March 14th - Joint shoot with GPGCSA at Nemaocolin Woodlands
- April 27th - Annual Meeting, Down River Golf Club
- June 7th - Couples Outing, Bedford Springs
- September 12th - Scholarship Scramble, Nemaocolin Woodlands
- October Mtg - tba
- November - Scholarship luncheon during PSU Turfgrass Conference, State College Elks Club
- December - Spouse Appreciation Evening, date tba

### 2012 Turf Conference and Trade Show Dates

- February 21-23, 2012 - Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Sheraton Four Points North, Mars, PA - \*tentative dates
- February 29-March 1, 2012 - Golf Industry Show, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada



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## NORTHWEST PA ATHLETIC FIELD, TURF, GOLF AND ORNAMENTALS CONFERENCE

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 - Allegheny College Campus Center  
Meadville, PA

In 2011, we are excited to once again welcome the Northwestern PA Golf Course Superintendents Association (NWPGCSA) to our list of sponsoring organizations for this event. This organization, in addition to our continual sponsors, Allegheny College and the Keystone Athletic Field Managers (KAFMO), make this the premier Green Industry Conference in Northwest Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and Western New York. World renowned speakers and over 30 commercial exhibitors will be present for this day-long Green Industry extravaganza.

Pennsylvania Pesticide certification credits, as well as GCSAA continuing education credits, will be available throughout the entire conference. Make your plans now to attend this outstanding conference and learn about the latest research and management in the Green Industry. *Jeff Fowler*

**Directions:** Take the Meadville exit off of I-79. Follow US 6, 19, & 322 to Park Avenue. Continue on Park Avenue to Randolph Street. Turn right onto Randolph Street and follow Randolph to 1st light. Turn left onto North Main Street. At the "Y", bear right. Allegheny College is on N. Main Street. Follow signs to parking.

**Address:** 540 N. Main Street  
Meadville, PA 16335

### SCHEDULE

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration and Trade Show
9:00 am - 9:45 am	Calibration of Spreaders and Sprayers Joel Hunter, Penn State Cooperative Ext., Crawford County
9:45 am - 10:30 am	Poly Tank Safety, Joel Hunter
<b>Program from 9 am - 10:30 am will be worth 3 core credits</b>	
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Break and Trade Show
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Breakout Session I Golf Option - Designing Your Topdressing Program Dr. Andrew McNitt, Penn State University
11:45 am - 12:30 pm	Breakout Session II Golf Option - Reducing Pesticide Use Steve Legros <b>(1 category 7, 18, or 23)</b>
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch and Trade Show
1:30 pm - 2:15 pm	Using Weather Data to Predict Pest Infestations Ruth Benner, Penn State Cooperative Ext. <b>(1 category 6, 7, 18, or 23)</b>
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm - 3:15 pm	Breakout Session III Golf Option - Herbicide Update Jeffrey Borger, Penn State University <b>(1 category 7, 18, or 23)</b>

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$45 per person, walk-ins are \$55  
(coffee, refreshments, lunch, and materials included)  
REGISTER ONLINE: <http://extension.psu.edu/events>  
Or call toll free at 877-489-1398**

## GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW REPORT



Attending the 2011 Golf Industry Show as NWPGCSA's Chapter Executive was very informative and enjoyable as always. Tuesday, February 8th was the day for Chapter Executives and Chapter Newsletter Editors to meet. In the past, these sessions were held on two different days. It was nice to attend both sessions on the same day connected with a complimentary lunch.

Since I haven't attended the Golf Industry Show for a few years, it was fun to reacquaint myself with some of the chapter executives I had met before as well as meet some new ones. Kristen Liebsch, Executive Secretary for The Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and I go way back to the first "National" we attended almost ten years ago. How our kids have grown! It was also nice to meet Suanne Gardiner, Newsletter Editor for "The Bonnie Greensward", which is the Philadelphia Association's newsletter. Suanne was one of the presenters for the Chapter Newsletter Editors Session as she explained how she coordinated the information and advertising for both the newsletter and the website of the Philadelphia Chapter (check it out at

www.pagcs.org). Suanne puts out 9 monthly E-newsletters of "The Bonnie Greensward" throughout the season, and their members are encouraged to go to their website to view them.

The Chapter Executives Session included some rather amazing accounts of chapter innovation. For example, Kristen Crawford, Executive Director of the Nebraska GCSA, gave a powerpoint presentation on her efforts to establish a Nebraska Golf Day. She got the idea by attending GCSAA's Chapter Leaders Executive Symposium last March, and by using her contacts with the governor's office and her superb organizational skills, she had the entire Nebraska Golf Day ready to go by April 29th...of the same year!

Nebraska only has one affiliated GCSAA chapter, but Kristen coordinated her efforts with all the other Nebraska State Golf Associations. She had an

official proclamation from the governor's office drawn up recognizing Nebraska Golf Day. The event itself was held at one of their member's courses, and Kristen used all the "bells and whistles" at her disposal. The governor, who is an avid golfer, was the first to tee off, and all the golfers were announced at the first tee just like a professional tournament. There were six news stations present to highlight the event on the surrounding news channels. University of Nebraska turf students were also present to help with and play in the event. Nike sponsored white golf caps with "Nebraska Golf Day" embroidered on them for all the participants. Kristen even arranged the foursomes to include a media person and a member of one of the golf associations to provide information on the golf industry during the round.

Kristen said her favorite picture from the event shows the local PGA president, the Nebraska

### CHAPTER EVENTS

#### 10 AM - 3 PM

Plan to attend these chapter events in Orlando, where you will have the opportunity to learn new ideas, concepts and techniques to strengthen your chapter's effectiveness. Better yet, you will be learning from your peers. Join fellow chapter leaders and executives for opportunities to network.

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVES SESSION AND NETWORKING LUNCH

#### 10 AM - 1 PM ROOM W303A (MEETING) AND W303C (LUNCH)

Join chapter executives to discuss the top challenges facing chapters today. Success stories and innovative ideas to improve chapter services and engage your members will be shared. The session will conclude with a networking lunch, which is an opportunity for attendees to continue the conversations and idea sharing with their colleagues.

### CHAPTER EDITORS SESSION

#### 1:30 - 3 PM ROOM W303A

Learn new ideas and techniques from your peers on how to enhance your chapter's publications. Bring a copy of your chapter's publication and prepare for plenty of opportunities to share what makes your chapter's publication a valuable and effective communication tool.

## EVANS NAMED GCSAA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GCSA chapter president, and the governor of Nebraska all casually standing and talking with each other in their golf attire. After the dinner when the governor had his chance to speak, Kristen said she almost fell off her chair when he said, "Next year, let's go for a Nebraska Golf Week!"

There is never a shortage of inspirational people from the golf industry and beyond at the Golf Industry Show. Nick Price was the featured speaker at the "Celebrate GCSAA!" Session where he was presented with the 2011 Old Tom Morris Award. Television golf analyst and former PGA player, Judy Rankin spoke on "Lessons from the Links" and Pat Williams, senior vice president of the Orlando Magic spoke on "The Magic of Teamwork".

Now for the numbers. Total attendance from the two presenting partners' (GCSAA and NGCOA) registration portals was 14,781, which is a 4% increase over last year. In terms of qualified buyers--those who are involved in the purchasing decisions--attendance increased 11% for a total of 5,752 qualified buyers. There were 551 exhibitors spread across 180,000 square feet of exhibit space, which is a 4% decline in exhibition space from last year in San Diego. At the educational conference, 5,272 seats were filled for over 100 seminars showing a 13% increase from 2010.

Finally, my report from the Pennsylvania Hospitality Room is it was very well attended and very LOUD! It was nice to see such a good turnout and to see so many familiar faces from across PA.

*By Julie Powell*

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) President James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, announced today that J. Rhett Evans has been selected as the organization's chief executive officer. Evans, who has served as interim CEO since late June of 2010, came to GCSAA in July 2009 as chief operating officer. Prior to joining GCSAA, he was the director of the parks, recreation and commercial facilities division for the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, Arizona (population 490,000). He was elevated to that position in 2005, after serving as that city's convention center and amphitheatre director beginning in 2001.

"We are excited to have Rhett Evans as our CEO," Fitzroy said. "He has a track record of success everywhere he has been. He has experience in the golf industry, both on the facility level and from an organizational perspective. He has experience in managing a large staff and being accountable to a variety of constituents. And, he is a consensus builder. That will serve him well with GCSAA members and in the increasingly collaborative golf industry."

While in Mesa, Evans managed all program areas including the convention center and amphitheatre; spring training baseball complex (Chicago Cubs); cemetery; recreation and aquatic complexes; and 2,600 acres of park space. Also under his watch were the operations of Dobson Ranch and Riverview golf courses. He oversaw a budget of \$32.5 million and a \$28 million capital budget.

In his tenure at GCSAA, he exhibited solid leadership in implementing cost saving measures through more advantageous contacts in the areas of technology



**Rhett Evans**  
GCSAA CEO

and convention and travel services; implementing headquarters building operational efficiencies; and staff reorganization. At the same time, GCSAA has improved member service through the creation of a member savings program; automated membership, registration and donation processes; new communications vehicles; an improved online job board; and the expansion of the field staff program.

"I am honored and humbled to be a part of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. It is a tremendous organization whose members play a vital role in the game. I have the utmost respect for their skill, dedication and integrity that goes into making the sport challenging, yet enjoyable," Evans said. "I appreciate the trust the board has in me and the support staff provided in this transition. Success comes through dedication and teamwork. I am excited to work with a team that includes the members, industry partners, allied associations, staff and other constituents to make GCSAA the best it can be and to strengthen the golf industry so it can ensure the vitality of this great sport."

## THE NEW TESTAMENT OF GOLF

By John Paul Newport

(Taken from the February 21, 2011 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*)



It's no secret that golf, as an industry, is lagging. Rounds played in the U.S. have been declining slowly for nearly a decade. More courses are closing than opening. More players have flowed out of the game than flowed in, says the National Golf Foundation. There may be many reasons for this, including the down economy and sociological changes, but some in the golf industry have begun to wonder aloud whether the rules of the game are really the problem.

The most radical vision for a New World Order in golf is the Flogton project being pushed by a group of Silicon Valley executives whose front man is Scott McNealy, the co-founder and former chief executive of Sun Microsystems. In their view, the

U.S. Golf Association's sanctioned game is simply too difficult to attract and retain enough to keep the game growing.

In particular, the Flogtonites argue, golf needs better ways to appeal to videogame-enslaved kids and to casual adult golfers who lack the time, inclination or athletic talent to master the game. "We've got the courses. The courses are beautiful and under-utilized. There need to be alternative golf formats that will bring more people out to play these courses," Mr. McNealy said last month when he unveiled the proposal.

In Flogton (that's "not golf" spelled backward), players could take their pick from several sets of rules to match their skill

levels. The most restrictive format might follow strict USGA rules of play but allow souped-up balls and clubs. Mr. McNealy said this format would be popular with seniors or others who are happy with USGA golf but can't hit the ball as far as they used to, or would like to.

The least restrictive forms of play would set purists' teeth on edge: teeing up shots in the fairway, legalizing one mulligan per hole, allowing 6-foot "bumps" (no nearer the hole) to get relief from trees and other obstacles, and requiring the second shot from a bunker to be thrown. These games would be geared primarily toward kids or rank beginners. For each format, Flogton handicaps could be established. Different social mores would also be encouraged, from trash-talking during backswings to wearing cargo shorts.

But it wouldn't be "goofy golf," Mr. McNealy insisted. The rules for each format would be clearly established and enforced. "If you hit a bad shot, it will still be a bad shot that you have to take personal responsibility for. That's the core value of golf. No excuses allowed," he said.

Mr. McNealy is himself a three-handicapper. Some of Flogton's other backers are also low-handicappers, including John Donahoe, CEO of eBay Inc., and Bill Campbell, chairman and former CEO of Intuit.

Their aim is not to replace

*(Continued on page 13)*

*(Continued from page 12)*

USGA golf, but to provide an alternative, with the expectation that many Flogton players would eventually migrate to the regular game, the way tee-ballers grow into baseball. For others, however, Flogton might be the only style of golf needed or desired. Courses could easily accommodate both styles of play, Mr. McNealy argued. Flogton play would be faster, which courses could cope with by designating certain times or nines for Flogton play. Flogton golfers could also play with USGA players, competing with them by cross-indexing handicaps.

“We know there will be resistance. A lot of old-line clubs will never allow Flogton play, and that’s fine,” Mr. McNealy said. But skiing traditionalists at first resisted snowboarding, he pointed out, “even though by now almost everybody acknowledges that snowboarding saved the industry.”

How likely is Flogton to catch on? Not very, at least in its current out-of-the-box form. “If it

were to work, it would be a conglomeration of a lot of ideas. It’s not going to end up being exactly what Scott McNealy or anyone else thinks it’s going to be right now,” said Casey Alexander, a golf industry analyst for Gilford Securities who nevertheless supports the initiative, as a way to get people talking. Mr. McNealy characterizes Flogton as an “open source” enterprise and is counting on Web feedback to help the game evolve.

One obvious response to the Flogton initiative is that most golfers already play non-USGA golf, some if not most of the time. What regular foursome doesn’t invent a few of its own quirky rules to make things more interesting? All those scramble and Stableford formats used at golf outings and club tournaments are nonkosher. Who needs a new sanctioning organization to tell golfers how to have fun?

Another question is whether taking the technological limits

off clubs and balls--a major part of Flogton vision and a subject of keen interest to manufacturers--would actually help make golf more fun to play. The easiest, quickest improvement would be to the ball. Polara Golf will introduce an improved version of its nonconforming ball this spring that the company says will self-correct up to 90% of a slice or hook. That would seem to be every slicer’s dream. But would it also deprive him of the deeper satisfaction, that comes from hitting the occasional perfect shot?

The AGA believes that technology could add 25% to the distance of an average golfer’s drive and double the amount of backspin on wedge shots hit into greens. But if everybody has access to the same equipment, is the essential challenge of golf really any different than it was before, or the frustration of relative poor play any easier to abide? If alternative golf takes off, I guess we’ll find out.

## THANK YOU TO OUR BRONZE PATRONS!

### **BASF Corporation**

David Schell  
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### **Green Valley Seed**

Jeffrey Hum  
(800) 535-7882

### **Johnston’s Evergreen Nursery, Inc.**

John Johnston  
(814) 897-1900

### **Select Source**

Michael Blatt  
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## GOATS FEEDING RIGHT ON COURSE

By Greg Kocher, Lexington Herald-Leader, September 26, 2010



Goats on a golf course might sound silly, but it's no joke when it comes to weed control. Avon Golf Course in eastern Fayette County (Kentucky) has used goats to trim ragweed and other tall, woody brush since mid-August (2010). The goats don't eat on the greens or roam at will on the 70-acre course. They are penned in small paddocks with battery-powered electric fencing. They are moved from spot to spot to eat grown-up areas. When they've stripped the weeds in one spot, they're moved to another.

"They don't eat tin cans, and they don't eat golf balls," said Terry Hutchens, goat specialist with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Hutchens was among the speakers last week at a goat "field day" at the course at Bluegrass Station, the former Army base now operated by the Kentucky Department for Military Affairs. The state leases the golf course to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government to operate. Last year, Bluegrass Station started using goats to eat weeds on three closed, capped and fenced landfills covering 51 acres. Keeping weeds off the landfills was expensive but necessary because a good grass turf is needed to keep the caps intact.

The benefit of the goats is that they are free. Scott County goat producers Kevin Kidwell and Gary Riddle allow

their animals to be used for the landfill and golf course projects. The producers benefit because they save on feeding costs. And "it's a little free advertising about the goat industry," said Kidwell, who raises goats for their meat. "As people talk about it, hopefully our meat prices go up a little bit."

Goats won't leave an area looking like a mowed, groomed lawn. Many of the tall stalks will remain but the leaves will be stripped. That helps golf course superintendent Don Davis in the removal of rocks or other debris that might damage mowers. "At least I can get it down to a point where I can see what my mowers are going over," Davis said. "If there are tree limbs down, I can see them much better." And the animals are a curiosity for those visiting the course. "I have yet to see a golfer that didn't stop and take a look at them," Davis said.

Goats are being used as a green alternative to chemicals and machinery across the country. In Detroit, they've trimmed weeds on a lot that will be used for an urban garden. Maryland enlisted them to control invasive weeds in a wetland area. In Arizona, they've nibbled the scrub brush that might otherwise stoke small fires into roaring infernos. Goats have been used to control kudzu, that rapidly growing vine commonly found throughout the South. Goat control of kudzu generally costs \$3 an acre while chemicals will cost \$60 to \$70 an acre, Hutchens said.

Gary Logsdon, environmental manager for Bluegrass Station, acknowledged that he and others "kinda laughed" when goats were first proposed for weed control. "We didn't have any experience with goats, and we really didn't have any desire to become goat experts," Logsdon said. So Logsdon turned to UK and Hutchens to provide the expertise to justify the use of goats and to design and monitor the project. UK also had relationships with area goat producers and matched Bluegrass Station with reliable partners, Logsdon said.

Last week's field day was held to

introduce producers to local managers who might want to consider goats for vegetation management. David M. Peel, specialist for facilities control at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, wanted to see whether goats might be used to eat vegetation at five detention ponds around the automaker's Scott County plant. "This might be something we could take a look at," Peel said. "It could be a good-neighbor policy for us," given that there are Scott County goat producers who might be interested in partnering with Toyota.

Meanwhile, a Glasgow man has started a goats-for-hire company in south-central Kentucky. Al Dille is the founder of Goat Browsers, which he calls an "environmentally friendly land enhancement service." The company was on its first job last week, as seven animals ate the weeds in an overgrown family cemetery in Barren County. Dille, 64, a retired tool-and-die maker, touts goats as the "greener weed eaters." Dille hopes to get more business from shopping centers and other properties that have problems with weeds. "It's a niche business," he said. "You're not going to get rich, but it's worth the effort. You never know. After Colonel (Harlan) Sanders (founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken) sold that first chicken, he did all right."



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