



The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 9, Issue 1
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WEST VIRGINIA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WVGCSA Members,

As we start a new season, I hope that the 2017 season will not be the weather roller coaster that 2016 was. 2016 was filled with extreme temperature swings and large amounts of precipitation. Some part of the state received devastating amounts of rain. Our prayers should still be going out to them on their recovery.

Later this month I will meet with the board to discuss this year's upcoming agenda. Some of the issues that will be discussed will be meetings and the fundraiser. Also, a large amount of our time will be spent discussing the Turf Conference and memberships. At last year's Turf Conference, we heard a lot of good ideas from the vendors and members and will try to include them. As always, I will be looking for ideas so feel free to get in touch with me.

As in all years we have old members going off the board and new members coming onto the board. Let me take this time to thank all the past board members for volunteering their time in growing the Association. I look forward at this time to working with the new board members in continuing to keep this Association strong. Just like all Associations, we must rely on our membership to participate in all the events and not just the Turf Conference.

In closing, I would like to recognize our Past President, Dave Sines for his leadership the past few years. Special recognition to the 2016 Superintendent of the Year, Jason McPhail and the 2016 Distinguished Service Award winner Phil Fetzner. We need to also thank the Vendors for all the support that they give our Association.

Sincerely,

President, Tony Coppa



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Improving Efficiency With Maintenance Gaps

By Addison Barden, agronomist, Northeast Region

Operational efficiency was a hot topic in 2016 because of the ongoing labor shortage in the golf course maintenance industry. Labor shortages and budget constraints are forcing superintendents to do more with less, but course conditioning eventually will decline if resource reductions become too severe. One way to get the most from limited resources is to implement a maintenance gap at your facility. Using a maintenance gap is an excellent way to perform important maintenance tasks at peak efficiency while minimizing disruptions to the golf calendar.

A maintenance gap is a temporary suspension of tee times that creates a predictable gap in play during which necessary maintenance tasks can be performed. For example, a course can suspend tee times, typically from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., on their slowest day of the week to create a gap in play. The maintenance team can work at peak efficiency within the gap in tee times without interfering with play. A maintenance gap can allow tasks such as rough mowing, bunker maintenance, venting greens and topdressing to be performed with minimal impact on golfers. Additionally, when the entire maintenance team is focusing on one or two holes, managers can easily monitor productivity and prevent costly mistakes.

It is important to note that there is no one-size-fits-all system for implementing a maintenance gap. Use the guidelines below to formulate a maintenance gap that best suits your facility:

- ~As with every new initiative, communicating with decision-makers and golfers is essential for gaining acceptance.
- ~Make sure your maintenance gap provides enough time to complete the desired tasks.
- ~If golfers tee off on both the front and back nine, alternate the gap between nines on a weekly basis so the entire course receives equal attention.
- ~Make sure the maintenance gap is a firm policy; absolutely no golfers should be allowed to tee off during the gap. This is crucial for the maintenance gap to succeed because employees are trained to stop working and move to a safe area when golfers are playing. If golfers interrupt the maintenance gap, operational efficiency will be significantly reduced.
- ~Do not create rain dates for scheduled maintenance gaps. Rescheduling maintenance days will create confusion among golfers.

Winter is the perfect time to sit down with decision-makers at your facility and create a maintenance gap program that will improve operating efficiency and playing conditions at your course. A weekly, two-hour gap in tee times for maintenance can significantly improve playing conditions. If your facility is interested in implementing a maintenance gap or discussing other operational efficiency strategies, a USGA agronomist in your area will be happy to provide additional insight.

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Performing maintenance during a gap in play allows work to be safely and efficiently completed.



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Help Wanted – Cultivating Young Professionals

GCSAA is often asked what we are doing to recruit new talent in to the field, as well as what value are we providing to Student members. Did you know that a Student member can maintain a Student Membership for up to 24 months after graduation, so long as the student is not in a golf course management role? It's true.

Furthermore, students have access to live and on-demand webinars. They have access to the job board, valuable scholarship opportunities, and an important resume critiquing service which can prove vital in landing the right job.

With regard to GIS, students are entitled to a free full registration, student hotel room block (special rates), 50% discount off member pricing for seminars, access to student booth area, free professional headshots, and a student reception event.

In 2017, GCSAA is taking the following steps to enhance student engagement:

Student Recruitment before college: GCSAA staff will participate at high school, FFA National Conference and Tradeshow, Vocational Tech School career day events to inform students of golf industry careers. We will provide superintendents tools (Marketing packets and Powerpoint presentations) to engage with students at their local career events. GCSAA staff will participate in First Green and First Tee events across the country.

Mentorship Program: By engaging students with Assistant Superintendents and Superintendents this program will facilitate career growth and upward mobility. This will be a software platform that will allow them to engage in a private arena to facilitate open communication.

Internship Program: GCSAA will provide Superintendents the tools to create active learning environments for students. Students will be provided with checklists for a productive internship experience. GCSAA will provide the means for them to communicate and reach each other.

Student Listserve: Students will be supplied with a Listserve communication tool. This will enable them to directly receive information that is pertinent to them. Student events, student internships, and networking opportunities will be communicated through the Listserve. They will also be able to network and engage with students across the globe.

Student Chapter Engagement: GCSAA will be making visits to Universities and Colleges that have GCSAA Student Chapters. We will offer speakers and educational content that they can choose from for their Turf Club meetings. We will be working with the GCSAA Affiliated Superintendent Chapter to engage them with their Student Chapter.

As we look forward, GCSAA will continue to enhance these programs as to guarantee the success of our field heading to the future.



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best. And with our knowledgeable
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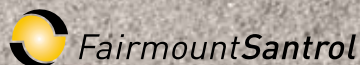
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2017 Membership Dues

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