President’s Message

Good Morning WVGCSA Member!

I have to start off by saying what a British Open! Just when you thought Jordan Spieth was going to fall apart and Matt Kuchar was going to charge to the top, Jordan came through with one of the greatest finishes that I ever watched. These are the kind of finishes we need to help boost the game of golf.

It is hard to believe that it is almost August and the summer is almost over. As the old saying goes “Where did the time go?” I hope that everyone is able to stay dry with all of the rain we have been getting this year. Personally it has been one of the wettest summers that I can remember, and I been around the golf course for many years.

I hope to see as many members at the fall meeting on Tuesday, October 3rd at Berry Hills Country Club. I challenge everyone to come out and try to win the superintendent trophy, at which this time that I hold.

Thank You, Tony Coppa
Billy Casper Golf
Oglebay Resort
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Unlock the Future of Foliar Nutrition
Dark And Stormy
By Jim Skorulski, agronomist, Northeast Region

Wet and soggy conditions have been common across most of the Northeast Region this season. Wet weather has saturated many golf courses and flooded others, disrupting maintenance and course-conditioning efforts. Fortunately, the wet weather has not severely affected turf conditions because temperatures have mostly remained moderate. However, continued wet weather combined with warming soil temperatures will reduce turfgrass rooting and could prove fatal. Turf managers are taking advantage of any dry weather to catch up on spraying and topdressing practices that have been disrupted by the rain. Hopefully the weather will also allow an opportunity to vent putting greens. Venting will help soils dry and re-establish gas exchange in the root zone. The USGA webcast, “Venting Aeration – A Benefit to Putting Greens,” further illustrates this popular cultivation technique.

Stormy weather patterns also bring concerns about lightning and the dangers it presents for workers and golfers. A properly functioning lightning detection system is the best defense against lightning. Lightning detection systems provide advance warning of incoming storms and let facilities know when conditions are safe to resume outside activities. However, not all golf facilities have lightning detection systems and there may be times when workers and golfers have to determine for themselves when it is time to seek shelter. Here are a few tips that workers and golfers can use when severe weather approaches:

1. The time between a lightning flash and thunder can be used to determine how far away the lightning strike occurred. Sound travels at a speed of about 1,125 feet per second (343 meters per second), equating to about a five-second count per mile (three seconds per kilometer) from the time of a lightning flash until the clap of thunder is heard. A count of 10 seconds between a flash of lightning and the clap of thunder means the lightning strike was approximately 2 miles away. Many were taught to count one second for each mile between a lightning flash and thunder, which greatly overestimates how far away the lightning strike occurred.

2. The “30/30 rule” is used by many to determine when it is time to head for shelter. The rule says that lightning poses a threat if it takes less than 30 seconds to hear thunder after a lightning flash and people should wait 30 minutes after a storm passes before resuming outdoor activities. The problem with the 30/30 rule is that the numbers are arbitrary. Using this method does not help to determine if a storm has sufficiently passed or if another storm is approaching. The best approach is to take cover as a lighting storm approaches and remain there until you are sure the storm has passed or until an all-clear signal is provided.

3. Lightning will often strike a tall object, but not always. Taking cover near smaller trees or objects hoping the lightning will strike a taller object may get you in trouble. Lightning can strike the ground or smaller trees, endangering anyone close to those areas. The only safe place to take cover from a storm is indoors or inside a closed vehicle.

4. Lightning never strikes twice is an old myth. Lightning can indeed strike the same spot multiple times if conditions are right.

July is also the time for field day demonstrations at Rutgers University and the University of Massachusetts. Field days provide an opportunity to see research in progress, to observe the newest grasses and to view the effectiveness of various control agents. Field days also provide an opportunity to interact with colleagues, which seems to be more and more difficult to do with everyone’s busy schedules. It is never easy to leave your golf course during midsummer, but try to attend one of the university field day events even if just for a few hours in the morning to support the university and gain valuable information that will make you a better manager. We hope to see you there.

Ominous storm clouds signal an oncoming front and the potential for dangerous lightning.
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At many golf courses, maintaining naturalized roughs is more complicated than simply allowing grass to grow naturally. In fact, “naturalized” roughs often are not natural at all. Naturalized roughs can become extremely labor-intensive if golfers expect them to have weed-free conditions, a uniform appearance, good playability and minimal impact on pace of play. For courses that do not have adequate labor and spray equipment, managing weed populations and grass density in naturalized areas can be especially challenging. Fortunately, there are cost-effective mechanical methods that can help.

Mowing naturalized areas three or more times per season at an approximate height of 6 inches will reduce weed competition. Frequent mowing will result in a loss of seedheads for that season but they will return the following year, if allowed.

If regular mowing is impractical because of limited resources or steep slopes, allowing goats and sheep to graze in naturalized rough areas can also be effective. Goats and sheep eat a wide variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds, eliminating the unwanted growth that superintendents often target with herbicides. The animals are comfortable on uneven terrain and have an excellent work ethic.

Some courses find that routinely burning naturalized roughs helps to eliminate unwanted weeds and spreads desirable fescue seeds. Burning can reduce reliance on chemical herbicides and helps manage grass density. Controlled burns are especially effective on uneven or steep terrain that is difficult to mow or spray. Before burning, check with your local fire department for information about regulations and restrictions related to controlled burns.

Maintaining naturalized roughs is a good way to reduce mowing time, add interesting contrast to a golf course and make a facility more economically and environmentally sustainable. However, naturalized roughs are not without their challenges, notably weed control. If your facility struggles with weeds and undesirable grasses in naturalized roughs, perhaps it is time to investigate one of these mechanical weed-control techniques.

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This area was allowed to grow naturally and, with repeated mowing, has become a weed-free and playable stand of fescue.
Best Sand. Best selection. Best support.

Best Sand has long been one of the best known names in golf maintenance. With the legendary quality and playability of our bunker sands, golf mixes, topdressing sand and construction mixes, it’s easy to see why. Now all the people and products of Best Sand have yet another club in their bag: the superior service and consistent support of the Fairmount Sports + Recreation team. And now more than ever, you’re the winner.
GCSAA Happenings

Summer is a busy time for our members for obvious reasons. During this busy time, gcsaa.org is a great website to keep up to date with current news and initiatives around the industry. For example, we have our Advocacy Hub, that keeps you current on issues affecting our industry, and issues that we need you to engage in. Our “Take Action” tool is great for raising your voice, and takes you through necessary steps to send a note to your Congressman or Congresswoman, and all you need to do is click a couple buttons and fill in some pertinent information.

Our refurbished mobile app is littered with resources, all at the tip of your fingers. Included in the app is current news, job postings, twitter and Facebook feeds, the GCSAA directory, GCM Magazine, and the GCSAA Calculator. With the calculator, members can perform cost calculations such as cost of mowing, cost per nutrient, cost of topdressing, and more. It also has other great features that help determine and calculate seeding and sprigging rates, compare products on a cost per active ingredient or cost per nutrient basis, and much more. The app can be downloaded from the app store by searching “GCSAA+.”

The Can Am Cup is coming to Baltusrol and Canoe Brook Country Club on October 23 and 24. Registration is limited, and will include great education and networking opportunities, as well as competitive golf at world-class venues. Sign up to help U.S. superintendents take the crown against our Canadian friends at this inaugural event.

If you are a Class A or B GCSAA member and have not been to GIS in 5 years or more, consider applying for the Melrose Leadership Academy this fall. This a great program that supports the professional development of GCSAA members by providing individuals the opportunity to attend the Golf Industry Show. The program is set up to provide up to 20 scholarships every year. While at the education conference, class members will attend sessions hosted by golf’s industry leaders. Attendees will also have extensive networking opportunities at various receptions and events. I’ve heard nothing but positive remarks from those who have attended, so look for the application process to open later this year.
32nd Annual Scholarship & Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament

*Canaan Valley Resort - Davis, West Virginia*

**Results**

- **1st place:** Landscape Supply
- **2nd Place:** Walker Supply
- **3rd place:** WVGA

**Closest to the Hole winners:**
- Don Rose
- Fred Swisher
- Jeremy Cochran
- Kenney Tenney

**Longest drive:** Frank Hewitt

**Putting contest:** Jason Hollen

**Door Prizes:**
- Oglebay Trip- Nathan Marrow
- Lakeview Trip- Eric Spurlock
- Uniontown golf- Bob Capranica

**50/50 winner:** Chris Mason
Used Parts for Lexco 300 & 500 Mowers
Contact Gale Taylor
Worthington Golf Club
304-428-4297

Deerfield Country Club in Weston is looking to either lease or borrow a sod cutter in mid-September. Please contact Greg Phillips at gregphil22@yahoo.com if you can help.
Golf Course Superintendent Needed at Bridgeport Country Club:

Description:
This Private Club department head position is responsible for the successful operation of the Golf Course Maintenance Department, Clubhouse and Grounds, Tennis Courts, Fishing pond, & Swimming Pool. This includes providing agronomic direction to maintain the golf course at the highest quality possible at all times following Bridgeport Country Club standards for the healthy growth of the golf course grasses, trees, wetlands and other applicable plant materials. Programs for turf/grass, material and chemical maintenance and asset management are critical to the success of this role. This position prepares an annual budget and achieves these financial goals throughout the year, through proper forecasting, expense controls and labor management.

The Superintendent works closely with the Board of Directors, Golf Committee, Golf Professional/Food & Beverage Manager and Pool Manager maximize the number of rounds of golf played by scheduling maintenance practices around Member play and outings to maximize efficiency is essential.

The Superintendent is responsible for hiring, training and developing all staff, including ensuring the staff is working within OSHA, club safety, state and federal guidelines for safe working conditions.

- 3-5 years in Golf Course Maintenance management
- Min 2 year College Agronomy Degree required
- West Virginia Pesticide Applicators License required or able to acquire within 6 months
- Advanced knowledge of regulatory requirements and recordkeeping as required by local, state and federal laws
- Diplomatic team player able to foster relationships with Members, Employee Partners and guests
- Attend monthly Board of Director and Golf Committee Meetings

Competitive compensation package with benefits included with annual employment opportunity.

Bridgeport Country Club was founded in 1956 and has 325 active Full Members not including Social or Corporate Members. We are located in North Central West Virginia off Interstate Hwy 79.

Please forward resumes in care of our Club Secretary Christine Salmon.
Email address: csalmon@citynet.net
Phone: 304-842-5056

Mailing address:
17 Meadowbrook Road
Bridgeport, WV 26330