



# The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 9, Issue 9  
September 2017

WEST VIRGINIA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good Morning

Good afternoon

Here we are, it is already late September. Most of us are doing late aeration and preparing the courses for winter. Even knowing that there is still a lot of golf that is ahead of us. For most of us the cool wet summer has been put behind us, and we are having the hot summer days that we expected earlier in the year. It will not be long before the normal days return.

We have 2 events set for October. On October 5th we will have our annual meeting at Berry Hills CC in Charleston. We will be doing several things at that meeting. We will be voting on new board members and still are accepting nomination for new board members. Chase Rogan also has invited Kevin Sunderman to speak, he is on the GCSAA Board of Directors. The topic will be on GCSAA initiatives. Afterwards we will be playing golf, I set out a challenge to all superintendents to win the trophy from me.

Our other event is the Turf Conference at Lakeview in Morgantown, which will be held Oct. 30-31 and Nov 1st. Speakers have been filled. Registration will be sent out soon. I really would like to see all WVGCSA member at the conference.

Thank you,  
Tony Coppa, President  
Billy Casper Golf



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**WVGCSA 29th Annual Turf Conference**  
**October 30 - November 1, 2017**  
**Lakeview Resort, Morgantown**



**Official Registration Form**

**2017 WVGCSA/WVPGA Turf Conference**

(Please print or type)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Persons \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many will attend Tuesday, October 31st    Banquet

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:    WVGCSA

at 2115 Charleston Town Center

Charleston, WV 25389

**Registration Breakdown**

Advance Registration:

Members:    Number attending entire conference

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$160 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Includes banquet)

Non -Members:    Number attending entire conference

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$200 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Includes banquet)

Banquet Only    \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Daily Fees: Member Price-\$80    Non-Member Price-\$100

Tuesday Only    \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday Only    \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WVGCSA Turf Conference

# WVGCSA Annual Meeting

*Thursday, October 5, 2017*

**Berry Hills CC, Charleston**

*9am - Board Meeting*

*10am - Registration*

*10:30am - Meeting (education and vote)*

*11:30am - Lunch followed by golf*

*Cost: \$70 for golf and meeting*

*\$25 meeting only*



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# Time To Recharge The Batteries

By Jim Skorulski, agronomist, Northeast Region

September's warm, sunny days and cool nights provide ideal growing conditions for cool-season turf by stimulating photosynthesis and the generation of simple sugars that plants use for growth. Increased production of sugars and reduced energy consumption by plants during cooler weather creates a surplus of sugars. The surplus sugars are stored in the form of simple starches in warm-season grasses or complex carbohydrates in cool-season turf. Plants use the carbohydrates and starches, stored in crown and root tissues as turfgrass plants acclimate for winter, to protect cells from cold temperatures and prolonged periods of ice cover. It is not always easy – especially for facilities that remain busy or are pressured to produce peak conditions late in the season – but do not overlook basic maintenance practices that allow turfgrass plants to take advantage of optimal growing conditions for carbohydrate production.

Basic requirements for optimal fall turf growth and winter acclimation include sunlight, good drainage and sufficient nutrition. Hopefully, drainage issues have been addressed through sound aeration and topdressing practices or the installation of drainage. The nutrient program should also be relatively easy to manage, taking care to keep plants vigorous but not lush and using supplemental applications of potassium to ensure it is readily available in the root zone.

However, the sunlight requirement is of utmost importance to sustain fall growth. Much like solar panels placed in the shade are not very reliable, neither is turf. Shade reduces the efficiency of putting green turf photosynthesis, resulting in a shortage of sugars that act as an energy source for plants. Address shade issues by removing trees that block sunlight. Also, slightly raise mowing heights to increase leaf-tissue surface area and improve the ability of plants to absorb sunlight. Raising mowing heights in small, weekly increments of 0.05 inches will prove beneficial and hardly noticeable to golfers. Final mowing height adjustments can be made during late October, but begin the process of raising mowing heights now to take full advantage of favorable growing conditions.

Many of us also enjoy the coming of fall as it provides a chance to recharge our own batteries after a long season. Put your turfgrass in a position where it too can take advantage of optimal weather and begin acclimating for the winter ahead. Contact your local USGA agronomist if you would like to review your fall and winter maintenance programs. Enjoy the fall season and begin recharging those batteries.

Northeast Region Agronomists:

David A. Oatis, regional director – [doatis@usga.org](mailto:doatis@usga.org)

Adam Moeller, director, Green Section Education – [amoeller@usga.org](mailto:amoeller@usga.org)

James E. Skorulski, agronomist – [jskorulski@usga.org](mailto:jskorulski@usga.org)

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Paul Jacobs, agronomist – [pjacobs@usga.org](mailto:pjacobs@usga.org)



*Eliminate shade and begin raising mowing heights to maximize sugar production and help plants begin to acclimate for winter.*



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# Three Considerations For Your Upcoming Budget Submissions

By S. Addison Barden, agronomist, Northeast Region

*Budget submissions are right around the corner for many golf facilities. As superintendents and decision-makers work through this process, think about these three considerations:*

1. Agronomic programs and maintenance costs are different at every facility. Comparing one facility's budget to another may be human nature, but it is similar to comparing apples and oranges. Numerous factors such as turf species, soil conditions, course design, equipment fleet and labor force can play a significant role when determining a maintenance budget. The best way to determine if a maintenance budget addresses a particular course's needs is to track labor and material costs so that the precise cost of a task or area of a golf course is known. Additionally, review current programs to determine if any changes are needed to achieve playability objectives.
2. At nearly every golf facility labor is the largest expense in the maintenance budget. A qualified staff is the most important factor in maintaining excellent playing conditions. However, golf course superintendents report that the current labor shortage remains the greatest challenge facing their day-to-day operation. Productivity can be improved by maintaining fewer acres, purchasing more efficient equipment and eliminating golf course accessories; but ultimately, offering a competitive wage is the most successful strategy to recruit and retain a qualified workforce. Begin planning for this now to minimize future pay increases that are driven by wage competition or regulation.
3. Don't be hesitant to contract important services that are traditionally performed Internally. Deferring certain cultural and infrastructure projects negatively affects playing conditions and turf health and will also result in higher maintenance costs when the time comes to address those needs. Sometimes it is best to contract a specialist for practices such as fairway cultivation, drainage installation, tree pruning and sod installation to avoid overwhelming current maintenance staff. Contracting temporary labor services for large projects or important events is becoming an increasingly popular strategy to provide the best possible playing conditions.

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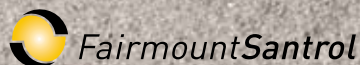
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# **WVGCSA 29th Annual Turf Conference**

## **October 30 - November 1, 2017**

### **Lakeview Resort, Morgantown**

#### **WVGCSA 2017 ANNUAL TURF CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTOR REGISTRATION FORM**

Fee for Full Conference Registration is \$350.00 and includes two Name Badges

Fee for additional Badges is 75\$ a piece

Fee for Full Conference Registration if not buying a booth is \$110.00

Fee for Lunch Sponsorship is \$75.00

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Please write brief description below of what the total is including and a receipt will be sent to the address provided

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the WVGCSA and thank you for making these educational seminars and functions a continued success; without our vendor sponsorships we would not be able to function as needed.

If you have any questions feel free to contact  
Amber Breed at 304-391-5000 or by email at [abreed@wvga.org](mailto:abreed@wvga.org)

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