



# The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 9, Issue 5  
May 2017

WEST VIRGINIA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good Morning Members

It may be a little late but I would like to take time to thank all of our superintendents in the association. With the GCSAA campaign to thank a golf course superintendent it shows the hard work and dedication it takes to create excellent conditions in which an enjoyable game is played. Superintendents put in many long hours to maintain healthy and beautiful turf. Keep up the good work!

With June fast approaching it is time for our annual fundraiser. This year it's going to be at Canaan Valley Resort. As we try to keep a rotation around the state this is our eastern stop for the event. I know it might be a little longer trip than some in the past have been, but it is a great golf destination. Also, this is the only fundraising event we do for our scholarships. I encourage everyone in the association to try to break away for an enjoyable round of golf.

Thank you  
Tony Coppa, President  
Superintendent at Oglebay Resort  
Billy Casper Golf



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# Spring Dead Spot

By Elliott L. Dowling, agronomist, Northeast Region

Spring dead spot (SDS) is the most damaging disease of bermudagrass in the northern transition zone. This disease has also been problematic on zoysiagrass in recent years. The climate in this area is not warm throughout the year, making warm-season grasses vulnerable to damage from SDS. One of three fungal pathogens in the *Ophiosphaerella* genus causes SDS. In the eastern United States, *O. korrae* is the most prevalent.

**Cultural Control** – There is a lack of understanding related to cultural control of SDS. However, promoting a dense and healthy root system is the first step in reducing severe damage from this disease. We know that SDS infections occur most readily in turf with excessive thatch. Regular core aeration and verticutting will remove thatch, promoting a healthy root system and removing infection centers.

**Chemical Control** – Active turf growth in late fall is often a precursor to SDS. Limiting or eliminating nitrogen applications once turf's natural growth rate slows in late summer or early fall will help control this disease. Fungicide applications can reduce SDS but they are not a failsafe and in many instances these applications achieve inconsistent results. Fungicide application timing is critical. Two sequential applications in the fall are ideal, with the applications spaced approximately 21-28 days apart. Research indicates that the best time to make these applications is when soil temperatures reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit at a 2-inch depth.

**Recovery** – Each spring, USGA agronomists assist golf courses with developing a recovery plan when SDS outbreaks occur. The affected grass is dead, so the focus is on promoting turf health around the infection centers. Regular fertilizer applications and grooming will accelerate growth of the healthy plants and help them fill the voids left by the disease. Promoting growth with cultural practices is important, but in many cases time and warm temperatures are the key ingredients for recovery. Until turf around the affected area begins active growth, recovery will not occur.

Spring dead spot is a widespread problem in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. The recent prolonged autumns have likely extended the window of SDS infection beyond the efficacy of normal fungicide applications, which may be why many courses are reporting increased challenges with this disease. Maintaining healthy turf is critical to reducing SDS infections and accelerating recovery if an outbreak does occur. Do not rely solely on chemical controls to manage this disease. Fungicides can help, but the results are inconsistent from year to year and seldom are fungicides 100-percent effective. To successfully manage SDS issues, superintendents must commit to a multi-year program of promoting turf health through cultivation, proper fertility and well-timed fungicide applications.



## ***Northeast Region Agronomists:***

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*A severe outbreak of spring dead spot can significantly impact playing conditions.*





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# Weevils And Wear Spots

By Paul Jacobs, agronomist, Northeast Region

Springtime cultivation, mowing frequency and plant protectant applications all play a role in how well turf will perform a few months from now. Preparing the golf course for summer starts by managing pests and promoting plant health before temperatures heat up.

For golf courses with annual bluegrass playing surfaces, the annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) can be a very problematic pest. Damage caused by the larvae can significantly affect playing conditions. In some areas, ABW have become resistant to insecticides that once provided effective control. For this reason, insecticide applications should be made with resistance management in mind. Factors to consider when making an application for ABW control include:

**Historical pressure and damage** – If damage from ABW is problematic every year, insecticide applications are warranted and the overall ABW management program should be re-evaluated. Spot treatments are ideal if the same areas are affected each year. If damage is common after insecticide applications have been made, resistance may be an issue.

**Scouting** – Scouting is essential to determine insect location, quantity and life stage.

**Plant health** – Improving growing environments and optimizing plant health will help turf tolerate larger populations of ABW.

**Insecticide selection** – If an insecticide application is necessary, make sure that it is effective against the targeted life stage of the insect. Newer insecticides can provide effective control against ABW, but overuse of any product will encourage the development of resistance in ABW populations. Products that are effective on all stages of insect development are best applied when multiple generations are present. It also is wise to limit usage of new insecticides to once per year and to apply only to affected areas in an effort to avoid resistance.

Annual bluegrass weevils cause concern for many facilities – the number of alerts, articles, emails and blog posts about ABW serve as proof. Keep in mind that these notifications are not a green light for applications. Information about the insect's life cycle and activity at other courses can be valuable, but should be treated as only one part of an integrated pest management program that is tailored specifically to your course.

It is also important to note that ABW do feed on creeping bentgrass, but mostly after the annual bluegrass populations have been exhausted. Furthermore, creeping bentgrass can tolerate higher quantities of ABW before signs of damage appear.

Courses in the Northeast with creeping bentgrass playing surfaces are facing their own challenges this spring. Cool temperatures have led to slow growth, making creeping bentgrass vulnerable to mechanical injury.



If managing creeping bentgrass, watch for mechanical injury during periods of slow growth and recovery. If creeping bentgrass cannot outgrow wear from golfer and maintenance traffic, the frequency of maintenance practices should be reduced until warmer weather arrives.

*Creeping bentgrass (left) has limited growth and recovery potential during cool weather. Limit the amount of wear on creeping bentgrass until warmer weather arrives.*





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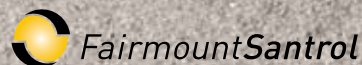
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# 32nd Annual Scholarship & Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament

*Canaan Valley Resort - Davis, West Virginia  
Tuesday, June 13th, 2017*

Registration 10:00 am | Shotgun Start 12:00 pm

Format: 4 person scramble with no minimum Handicap

\*Special Club rate of \$600 per 4 person team (This must include 4 members from one Club or Resort, such as

Superintendent, Owners, Managers, Assistants, Golf Pros, Spray Tech or Mechanics, etc.)

\*\$700 per team (\$600 for club teams) includes: Closest to the Hole, Putting Contest & 50/50 Contest, Box Lunch & 4 beverage Tickets provided for on the course. Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres following golf.

***See Entry Form and Sponsor Form at the end of the newsletter. You will also receive one in the mail.***

An advertisement for BASF Xzemplar herbicide. The background is a blurred image of a golf course with two people in the distance. In the foreground, a white plastic jug of Xzemplar is shown. The text 'Immediate knockdown. Long residual. Spotless fairways.' is in the upper left. To the right of the jug, it says 'Keep your fairways dollar-spotless for up to 28 days.' The bottom of the ad has a dark blue bar with white text and the BASF logo.

Immediate knockdown.  
Long residual.  
**Spotless fairways.**

*Keep your fairways  
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*The 2017 WVGCSA Directory has been  
mailed. If you do not receive yours, please  
contact Amber Breed.*



# **The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association**

**Presents the 32nd Annual Scholarship & Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament**

## **Canaan Valley Resort - Davis, West Virginia**

**Tuesday, June 13th, 2017**

**Registration 10:00 am | Shotgun Start 12:00 pm**

**Format: 4 person scramble with no minimum Handicap**

### **Special Club rate of \$600 per 4 person team**

**This must include 4 members from one Club or Resort**

*(Superintendent, Owners, Managers, Assistants, Golf Pros, Spray Tech or Mechanics, etc.)*

## **Entry Form**

**\$700 per team (\$600 for club teams) includes:** *Closest to the Hole, Putting Contest & 50/50 Contest, Box Lunch & 4 beverage Tickets provided for on the course. Cash bar and hors d' oeuvres following golf.*

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Golf Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Player # 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Player # 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 36 TEAMS. PAYMENTS MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THIS REGISTRATION FORM.**

**\*PLEASE RETURN BY MAY 31st\***

Make checks payable to **"WVGCSA/ William C. Campbell"** and return to:

**Tony Coppa | Oglebay Resort | 465 Lodge Drive | Wheeling, WV 26003**

**Call Tony Coppa for Questions at (304)280-0034**

***To Pay by Visa or MasterCard contact Amber Breed at 304-391-5000***

***Call 304-866-4121 to reserve your hotel room at rate of \$89 per night***

# **The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association**

**Presents the 32nd Annual Scholarship & Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament  
on June 13th at**

## **Canaan Valley Resort Davis, West Virginia**

**The Annual Fundraiser has been a huge success thanks to your support. Due to  
overwhelming response in the past, this year we have again added a variety of sponsor levels.**

### **Sponsor Level Dollar Amounts and What is Included**

#### **Gold Sponsor-\$1000**

4 Person team entry, Name on Major Sponsor Sign, Tee Sponsor Sign, & a Commemorative plaque

#### **Silver Sponsor-\$850**

4 Person Team Entry, Name on lunch Sponsor Sign, & Tee Sponsor Sign

#### **Bronze Sponsor-\$750**

4 Person Team Entry & Tee Sponsor Sign

**Gold Sponsor wishing to add more than one team will receive a discounted price  
of \$600 for each additional team!**

**Sponsorship will help to provide Lunch, Beverage Cart, and Hors 'D oeuvres at the final  
reception. Your continued support is crucial to the success of the fundraiser.**

**All Corporate Sponsors must be received by May 29, 2017. We would like to thank you in  
advance for your continued support. Feel free to contact me at (304)280-0034.**

**Thank You, Tony Coppa  
Fundraiser Chairman**

# TEE SPONSOR FORM

The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association will be holding their 32nd Annual William C. Campbell Scholarship and Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament on Tuesday, June 13th, 2017 at Canaan Valley Resort.

The Annual Fundraiser has been a huge success thanks to your support. We will once again be offering hole sponsorships for you to consider. Each hole sponsor will have their sign clearly displayed on a tee, as well as displayed on the Sponsor Board during the event. With your continued support, we can make this year's event our most productive ever as well as great fun for all involved.

If you would like to change the verbiage on last year's tee sign or if you are a new sponsor please include your verbiage below. Please, no more than 4 words allowed per line.

Line #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Line #4 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

(If different from above)

Number of Holes sponsored \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> sign & \$50.00 for additional tee signs \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Sponsor

Make checks payable to: **WVGCSA / William C. Campbell**

Return to: Tony Coppa  
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If paying by Visa or MasterCard, please call Amber Breed at 304-391-5000