



The Mountain State Greenletter

West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 15, Issue 4
April 2023

Board of Director's Message

As many of you know, I have had the privilege of watching my daughter, Mary, this year as the West Virginia University Mountaineer mascot. She is an incredible young woman with a fierce passion for West Virginia. She is also a grateful recipient of the William C. Campbell scholarship.

One of her last events of her term was firing the “best shotgun start in college golf” at the Mountaineer Invitational held at Pete Dye Golf Club. Afterward, she changed out of the buckskins and our family was able to spend the day watching a premiere college golf tournament in our home state. The course was in beautiful shape and showcased what we have to offer in our great state – shoutout to Jason Hollen and his staff. I was humbled by the experience realizing how proud I am to be a part of the golf industry in West Virginia. I encourage you, as well, to stop for a moment this spring and appreciate just how lucky we are to be doing something we love in a beautiful place.

I would be remiss if I didn’t congratulate Chris Slack on his promotion with the West Virginia Golf Association and welcome him to our board. We look forward to working more closely with him and look forward to his success in his new role. I hope to see you all at the spring meeting. Mitch Roush, President, Riverside Golf Course



Upcoming Important Dates

*Spring Meeting @ Marietta CC | Tuesday, May 9th
Lunch and Meeting - 11am | Golf at Noon
Cost - \$40 per person*

*WVGCSA Scholarship Fundraiser | Monday, June 12th
Berry Hills Country Club, Charleston
Details Included*

*WVGCSA Turf Conference | Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Stonewall Resort, Roanoke
Details to be Released this Summer*

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The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

presents the 38th Annual Scholarship & Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament

Berry Hills Country Club – Charleston, WV

Monday, June 12th, 2023

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, Longest Putt, Longest Drive & 50/50 Contests, Boxed Lunch & 8 beverage Tickets provided for on the course. Towels will be given for the tee gift this year! Cash bar and cook out following golf.*

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Golf Team Name _____

Player # 1 _____ Email _____

Player # 2 _____ Email _____

Player #3 _____ Email _____

Player #4 _____ Email _____

ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 36 TEAMS. PAYMENTS MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THIS REGISTRATION FORM. *PLEASE RETURN BY MAY 28th*

Make checks payable to “WVGCSA” and return to:

WVGCSA | PO Box 335 | Charleston, WV 25322

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

If paying by credit card, please email Amber Breed at 1971wvgcsa@gmail.com

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New Beginnings in the East Region

By Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region

I hope everyone had a wonderful offseason. I've lived in the mid-Atlantic area my entire life and can say it's been a mild winter and one with little snow. While it's been a productive winter for many maintenance teams, I hope the mild weather did not hamper everyone's ability to relax, recharge and gear up for the season.

For well over 20 years, I've been part of the golf course maintenance industry in the mid-Atlantic. I grew up and went to school in Maryland, was an assistant superintendent at several Baltimore-area clubs, and then served Fountain Head Country Club as their golf course superintendent for 15 years. During that time, I've gotten to know many of you in the region and I'm excited to work with all of you in my new role as a USGA agronomist. Having utilized the USGA Course Consulting Service for my entire career, I understand how valuable the visits are and I'm looking forward to continuing the tradition of being a trusted partner for golf facilities.

As another season starts, it's always a great time to begin new habits. Data collection has become an increasingly important part of agronomic decision-making. If you don't currently collect much data at your course, now might be a good time to try something new. I'm sure you'll find that data gives you a better understanding of how maintenance practices influence turfgrass performance, which leads to higher-quality conditions and improved efficiency. I urge everyone to look into the USGA's DEACONTM platform, the new GS3 and our GPS Service to see how these tools can help you collect and analyze data to make more-informed decisions. Starting something new means some extra effort and challenges, but I'm confident you'll see the rewards. Don't hesitate to reach out if I can help with data collection or any other aspects of your course maintenance program and I look forward to seeing all of you in my travels!

Northeast Region Agronomists:

Darin Bevard, senior director, Championship Agronomy – dbevard@usga.org

Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region – edowling@usga.org

Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region – bgietka@usga.org



It was a mild winter in much of the Northeast, which means the busy golf season will be getting an early start this year.



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Landing on Your Feet With Landscaping

By Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region

For more than a few years, USGA agronomists have been preaching the importance of simplifying maintenance during Course Consulting Service visits. One way to streamline maintenance and focus on what matters most is to eliminate landscape beds on the course. While we've seen a lot of that happen – especially since COVID – areas around the clubhouse, pool, tennis courts and other off-the-course areas are still heavily landscaped and it's usually the superintendent's responsibility to maintain them.

One way superintendents are getting around the difficulties that come with a lean staff is to subcontract the maintenance of ornamental beds, mulch and other landscape areas. I recently spoke with two superintendents who have gone this route and both said that it is cheaper to hire a landscape company than it is to perform the work in-house. Even if they were authorized to hire additional staff to help with spring landscaping and other duties, finding labor continues to be an issue for these superintendents so hiring extra employees is easier said than done.

Spring is always one of the busiest times of the year on the golf course. Everything is waking up at the same time so grass needs to be cut while winter projects are finished and aeration is completed, if it hasn't been already. All of this during a time of the year when new staff must be hired and trained, or you are waiting for staff to return. Add in the desire for new mulch and spring flowers in high-visibility areas and maintenance teams can get stretched way too thin. You might be able to take some pressure off yourself this season by hiring a landscaping company to pitch in with mulch and other spring projects so you can focus on what matters most.

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Hiring a landscape company can be a good option for superintendents that are struggling with labor and trying to get the course ready for the upcoming season.

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The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

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Berry Hills Country Club – Charleston, WV

Monday, June 12, 2023

The Annual Fundraiser has been a huge success thanks to your support.

Gold Sponsor-\$1000

4 Person team entry, Name on Major Sponsor Sign, Tee Sponsor Sign, & Ad in Newsletter

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 Cook Out at the final reception. Your continued support is crucial to the success of the fundraiser.

All Corporate Sponsors must be received by June 1, 2023. 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 38th Annual William C. Campbell Scholarship and Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament on Monday, June 12th, 2023 at Berry Hills Country Club.

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 1st sign & \$50.00 for additional tee signs \$ _____ Total Sponsor

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