



The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 17, Issue 2
February 2025

West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Board of Director's Message

WVGCSA Fellow members,

With winter's grasp still holding, on I hope everyone has had time to go through their equipment fleet and get projects planned for the upcoming 2025 golf season. It's nice this time of year to enjoy some downtime or vacation with family and friends but we are all getting to the point where we get the itch to get out on the golf course. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's meetings and events so keep an eye out for notices in your email.

I'd also like to take a moment to congratulate Mitch Roush and his family on the interview with PGA Tour radio last week. It's great to hear about the course and family history involvement to make Riverside Golf Club what it is today. Great job Mitch and keep up the great work.

Thanks,

Andy Bates, President
Bridgeport Country Club

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ~Spring Meeting - May 19 at Belmont Hills CC (Education included)***
- ~40th William C. Campbell Fundraiser - June 30 @ Pete Dye GC***
- ~ Turf Conference - November 10-11, 2025 @ Bridgeport Conference Center***



The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association
presents the 40th Annual Scholarship & Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament

Pete Dye Golf Club – Bridgeport, WV

Monday, June 30th, 2025

Registration 10:00 am | Shotgun Start 11:00 am

Format: 4-person scramble with no minimum Handicap

Special Club rate of \$900 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

\$1,000 per team (\$900 for club teams and \$1,200 non-WVGCSA member teams) includes:

Tee Gift, Closest to the Hole, Longest Putt, Longest Drive & 50/50 Contests, Boxed Lunch & 8 beverage Tickets provided for on the course. 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 JUNE 10th*

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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The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

presents the 40th Annual Scholarship & Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament

Pete Dye Golf Club – Bridgeport, WV

Monday, June 30, 2025

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

Gold Sponsor-\$1,300

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

Silver Sponsor-\$1,150

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

Bronze Sponsor-\$1,050

4 Person Team Entry & Tee Sponsor Sign

Corporate Sponsor and \$1,000 level teams wishing to add more than one team will receive a discounted price of \$800 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, 2025. 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 40th Annual William C. Campbell Scholarship and Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament on Monday, June 30th, 2025 at Pete Dye Golf 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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Master Class: Elevate Your Hand-Watering Consistency

By Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region

While many golf course maintenance crews use portable or in-ground soil moisture sensors to accurately measure volumetric water content (VWC) in the rootzone, applying the “right” amount of water when hand watering greens is somewhat subjective. At Philadelphia Cricket Club, chief planning officer and director of grounds and facilities, Dan Meersman, created a hand-watering method that improves rootzone moisture consistency across all the putting greens and also provides guidelines to help train inexperienced hand waterers.

Meersman’s staff uses portable moisture meters to measure and record putting green VWC over all 45 holes and practice facilities at Philly Cricket. The management team then considers the forecast evapotranspiration (ET) for the day compared to the current rootzone VWC to determine the volume of water that should be applied by hand watering to achieve the desired VWC. For example, when VWC readings are less than 10% with ET predicted above 0.15 inch, staff will apply 0.03 inch of irrigation water. Of course, the necessary amount to apply on each green will vary from course to course and seasonally. This hand watering is done in the morning with the goal of meeting turfgrass water needs for the day.

Hand-watering staff refer to their golf course’s “watering card” which lists each putting green and the specific gallons of water to be applied based on the predetermined ET replacement volumes. Just before the hand waterer plugs in their quick coupler, an in-line flowmeter on the hose is zeroed and water is applied while monitoring the flowmeter for even dispersion, while still allowing extra water for any fresh plugs or drought-stressed areas. After a few hand-watering applications, the staff learns the necessary pace to evenly apply water but always refers to their flowmeter to ensure accuracy. This results in the desired amount of water being applied to the putting greens and lessens the subjectivity in hand watering while aiding in training.

Measuring putting green surface area, purchasing in-line flowmeters and obtaining reliable ET rates for your location is about all it takes to implement Meersman’s method. Even if you’re not looking to develop a watering card, thinking about the volume of water applied in the context of putting green surface area can be an insightful exercise. For the calculations, use this formula:

Volume of Water to Apply (gallons) = Putting Green Area (square inches) x Depth of Water to Apply (inches) x Conversion Factor (cubic inches to gallons).

For example, a 4,500-square-foot putting green is multiplied by 144 to give 648,000 square inches. Depth of water to apply is the other variable and is related to daily ET. Common presets for the watering card are 0.03, 0.05, 0.07 and 0.10 inch. The conversion factor is 0.004329, which converts cubic inches to gallons. Using the equation for a 4,500-square-foot putting green that requires 0.05 inch of irrigation water to replace loss from predicted ET, we see that: 648,000 square inches x 0.05 inch x 0.004329 = 140 gallons of water. That is the amount of water that should register on the flowmeter when the hand waterer is done with that green.

I was fortunate to see this hand-watering method in action during the 2024 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball at Philly Cricket, which started with a notable rain event that was followed by an abundance of dry weather and very high ET days. The putting green firmness was excellent and highly consistent throughout the golf course, which was a direct result of precise hand watering. If you want to elevate your water management, consider implementing some of the ideas from the Meersman method and definitely measure VWC using a tool like the new USGA Moisture Meter. For further discussion on water management, reach out to your regional USGA agronomist.

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 – bgietka@usga.org



Adding an in-line flowmeter to your hand-watering hoses will help staff apply the right amount of water to maintain plant health and consistent putting green performance.

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All,

Happy 2025 everyone! Thanks for letting me be part of such a great organization. For any of you that don't know me, I work for Beard Equipment as a "Territory Representative" in Ohio and West Virginia. Beard Equipment is the John Deere Golf dealer (among other brands) for part of WV. For ease of description, I cover west of Interstate 77 throughout the state. I started my golf career in the late 90's working on the crew at Bent Tree GC in Sunbury, OH. After high school I attended Ohio State ATI and received my degree in Turfgrass Management. Like some of you, I decided to take a sales role in the industry after working on the course for years. Pondering what I could write about for my first article in the newsletter, I've decided to give you a recap of what John Deere has to offer in 2025. Fresh off the 2025 GCSAA Show, there are many things to talk about.

NEW EQUIPMENT- The hard work of our designers and engineers finally wrapped up a few new electric machines. The 2775E is a full electric triplex. It is equipped with Tech Control for optimal cut quality setup regardless of operator. The new Whisper Link lift/lower system offers more float than our current 2700 series mowers and leads the industry overall. On a full charge the 2775E will mow 22 greens.

The upgraded GS Gator is now powered by lithium-Ion batteries. This is a huge upgrade compared to the lead acid setup from previous model years. GS Gator is a good fit for golf courses that have tight bridges or narrow areas throughout the golf course. Don't be fooled by the slimmer design compared to the TX line of Gators. GS Gator is the perfect utility cart for most everyday needs from your crew. The link below takes a deeper dive into both units.

<https://www.deere.com/en/news/all-news/golf-sports-turf-offerings-gcsaa/>

OPERATIONS CENTER AND JOHN DEERE PRO GOLF- How do you manage your equipment service needs? Do you manually check hour meters? How about efficient parts ordering? Do you feel your mowing or spray routes are the fastest they can be? Operations Center and John Deere Pro Golf can solve all those answers. Starting in 2023, most of the new golf equipment came equipped with a little black modem hidden under the hood. That little piece of hardware works overtime for you. It constantly is sending location data, service needs, and diagnostic codes to your Operations Center account (Ops Center). Once setup, this desktop and mobile app will change how you manage your equipment. Ops Center is a free software program. As mentioned above, it is standard equipment on most all models of John Deere Golf equipment. If you would like to take your digital management strategies to the next level, purchase a subscription to Pro Golf. This software is packed with all the offerings from Ops Center but also adds labor management, parts inventories and thresholds, tech manuals, etc. Learn more by reviewing the link below.

<https://explore.deere.com/experience-progolf/>

Autonomy- During GCSAA, John Deere did live feeds with our full autonomous fairway mower. The 7700A mowed perfectly straight lines with precision accuracy. Full autonomy technology is ever changing as we have run this unit across the country for four seasons. Although not in production we strive to be the first when demand calls. John Deere has been a leader in the autonomy world using technology, such as Auto Track, in the ag industry. Auto Track is currently being used in GPS Progator sprayers for golf too.

Justin Ross
WVGCSA Board Member
Beard Equipment- Territory Manager



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