



# The Mountain State Greenletter

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West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## Board of Director's Message

The start of a new year is upon us and here is hoping that we begin to turn the corner from a trying 2020.

The Board of Directors met virtually this month to discuss several topics to get the new season kicked off. The first is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the association. We will be working on a new anniversary logo and rolling it out for the Scholarship Fundraiser if not sooner. I would also like to receive some feedback from all members regarding their memories of events or just what the association means to them. We will highlight them in upcoming newsletters.

Also, we discussed the season's meeting schedule. At this time, the spring meeting will be held in the northern panhandle with location to be determined soon. Once confirmed Amber will let you know. The Scholarship Fundraiser tournament will return to its normal early June slot. We have several courses submitting bids, but we are still open to bids if your course is interested. And actually, this goes for all events. If your course would like to host a meeting, please contact us. We are always looking to feature different parts of this beautiful state.

Lastly, we discussed the Turf Conference. It might seem like this meeting just happened, but we are already looking forward to November again. I feel that the new one-day format was mostly successful. With the way 2020 was rolling, the fact that we were able to present one was a testament to Amber's hard work. As we look to 2021, I would like to get your feedback. We are going to be sending out a survey to all members and vendors. It will have a few simple questions on it, but mainly we as a Board would like to know what would you like to see improve. That may be speaker topics, the setup, social interaction, etc. The worst kept secret in the industry is that conferences are struggling. We recognize that and want to be able to adapt and flex to give you the members an opportunity to shape the future of these events. What is going to engage you and make you look forward to this event at the end of your season? All opinions are welcome and we appreciate the effort to help us continue the association's work for its members. Please look for that from Amber very soon.

Stay safe. The light at the end of the tunnel is finally starting to flicker.

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# There is No Such Thing as an Offseason

By John Daniels, agronomist, Northeast Region

Golf course superintendents, like many professional athletes, really don't have an offseason. Being at the top of one's game requires a year-round commitment. Every day provides a new opportunity for renewal and improvement. All it takes is desire, knowledge and time.

Fortunately, acquiring knowledge has never been easier for turf managers – especially from the comfort of your office. A silver lining of the coronavirus pandemic has been the expansion of on-line education content and virtual meetings. Whether it is the upcoming Golf Industry Show or a regional turf conference, there are numerous online opportunities to learn about new research, ask questions and network with your peers. The new virtual formats also make it easier for other members of your team to participate and learn when they might not normally attend national conferences because of travel costs. Below are few upcoming educational offerings I would encourage you to consider:

Golf Industry Show Virtual: February 2-4, 2021

New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation Virtual Conference: March 2-3, 2021

New Jersey Turfgrass Association Webinar Series: January-March 2021 (three each month)

Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium: March 18, 2021

Whether you are looking to take a break from winter tree work or repairing equipment, make sure to set some time aside for you and your staff to take advantage of the numerous online offerings.

Northeast Region Agronomists:

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*There's no shortage of online education opportunities for turf managers looking to sharpen their skills this winter. (Image courtesy of GCSAA)*





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# **WVGCSA 2021 Turf Conference Survey (Please respond by Feb. 14th)**

## **Vendors**

1. What type of activities, set up, etc. would improve the vendor experience at the Turf Conference?
2. How do you see improving the interaction between vendors and superintendents?
3. Any other ideas to improve the overall conference?

## **Superintendents**

1. What topics would you like to see addressed during the conference?
2. What social activities would you like to see implemented to help with interaction between all superintendents, vendors and other members?
3. Any other ideas to improve the overall conference experience?

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# *Superintendent Spotlight Q&A*

*Vince Allen, Sugarwood GC, Lavalette*

**1. Vince, tell us about your family-**

“I work for dad, the course owner. I’m married with a teenage daughter.”

**2. How long have you been in the golf business and what courses/states have you worked?**

“I worked in golf since 1990, and as a superintendent since 1995. I have only worked at one course, Sugarwood.”

**3. Any advice for up and coming superintendents about making your golf course successful?**

“My advice to young prospects is to learn the ropes and pay your dues. Ride the course every morning and look at the greens. Don’t be pulled down by employee drama. In other words, don’t make their problems your problems.”

**4. How have you dealt with the challenges Covid has placed on the world and specifically the golf industry?**

“The golf industry has mostly thrived under government lockdowns. The greatest challenge has been keeping up with the extra play and having enough carts for everyone.”

Thank you Vince for allowing us to get to know you!

*The WVGCSA was the recipient of the FMC Give Back initiative! This company donates a portion of the sales of Rayora fungicide and Fame SC fungicide to local GCSAA chapters. We appreciate the support of FMC!*

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