



# The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 16, Issue 6  
June 2024

West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## Board of Director's Message

First and foremost, the Board would like to thank all of those who came out to support the 39th Annual Scholarship & Research Fundraiser Golf Tournament. We would like to especially thank Amber Breed for all her hard work organizing the event, our members who donated prizes and Moe (Robert Young), Sherri and their crews from Canaan Valley Resort. This event would not be possible without the vendors and sponsors and we sincerely thank them for their time and support. We were blessed with great conditions and great hospitality. This event makes it possible to award our scholarships and promote our industry and our values through this meaningful initiative.

Back on the course, you may be battling the heat as much as we are and its times like these that I'm reminded of the extremes our work can lead us to. The pressure to find the resources, labor and patience to fight something that we can't control can be overwhelming sometimes. Soon, this too will pass and we'll move onto the next challenge. I suggest a rain dance in the meantime – it worked for me earlier this week. Or maybe you could give away some free ice cream like Keith Honaker in Beckley.

See you soon,  
Mitch Roush  
President, Riverside Golf Course

### **Golf Tournament Results:**

- 1st Place - Team Bridge Haven
- 2nd Place - Team Apex
- 3rd Place - Team Advanced Turf Solutions
- 4th Place - Team Riverside
- 5th Place - Team Harrell's
- 6th Place - Mountain State Floratine

### **Upcoming Events:**

*Fall Meeting ~ Pete Dye Golf Club ~ October 15, 2024*  
*WVGCSA Turf Conference ~ Coonskin Park & Mardi Gras Casino ~ November 12-13, 2024*

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We are proud to announce that William C. Campbell Scholarship Winner, Philip Webb, Assistant Superintendent at Guyan Golf and Country Club has graduated from Walla Walla Community College with a BAS in Ag Systems. He is now going to attend Auburn University for his Masters in Crop, Soil, Environmental Science with Turf irrigation design. He has been a recipient of the scholarship program and would like to thank all those who have supported and donated through the years!



# Bunker Rake Placement Made Easy

By Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region

Should we leave rakes inside the bunker, outside the bunker, or prop the handle on the edge of the bunker? How many rakes per bunker? What about leaving them on steep slopes? These are all questions about rake placement that come up during USGA Course Consulting Service visits. Placing bunker rakes in locations that minimize their impact on play and maintenance yet provide adequate availability for golfers is not easy.

The Green Section Record article “Where Should Golfers Put Bunker Rakes?” is an excellent guide for selecting appropriate locations, but even when your course settles on a policy, bunker rakes do not always make it back to their designated home. Inevitably, maintenance staff and golfers move them and do not always place them back where they came from. At the recent U.S. Amateur Four-Ball championship, I saw that the team at The Philadelphia Cricket Club used blue-colored marking whiskers called trail chasers to mark correct bunker rake placement. This helps the maintenance staff, players and caddies return bunker rakes to where they belong.

By taking the guesswork out of rake placement, the maintenance staff can quickly assess whether they need repositioning during morning course prep. Additionally, golfers can see where to replace their bunker rake – even if they don’t always do it! The whiskers are soft plastic bristles that are easily mowed over and do not interfere with play. Trail chasers are available online and at most hardware stores. Additional uses for trail chasers include monitoring bunker sand depths and marking mowing lines. If keeping bunker rakes where you want them is an issue, marking their home may be part of the solution.

Northeast Region Agronomists

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Installing trail chasers is a clever way to mark where bunker rakes belong.





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