



The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 17, Issue 3
March 2025

West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Board of Director's Message

WVGCSA Fellow members,

I hope everyone doesn't have too much wind/storm damage on their properties from this past month's storms. The weather sure has been up and down with the start of the golf season.

Please mark your calendars for our spring meeting on Monday, May 19th located at Belmont Hills CC in St. Clairsville, OH. Michael Lee, Sr. Manager, Government affairs from GCSAA will be there to talk about legislation and regulations that impact our industry as well as how to get involved with grassroots advocacy efforts.

If you haven't registered yet, get your teams together for our fundraiser event at Pete Dye on June 30th. We'd really love to fill this event so let's get as many teams as possible. I wish everyone a successful golf season and enjoy the warm weather coming our way.

Happy Spring,
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 (Hoodie), 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 _____ Hoodie Size _____

Player #2 _____ Email _____ Hoodie Size _____

Player #3 _____ Email _____ Hoodie Size _____

Player #4 _____ Email _____ Hoodie Size _____

To guarantee hoodie size, please return team sizes by May 1st!

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

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

Return to: WVGCSA
PO Box 335
Charleston, WV 25322

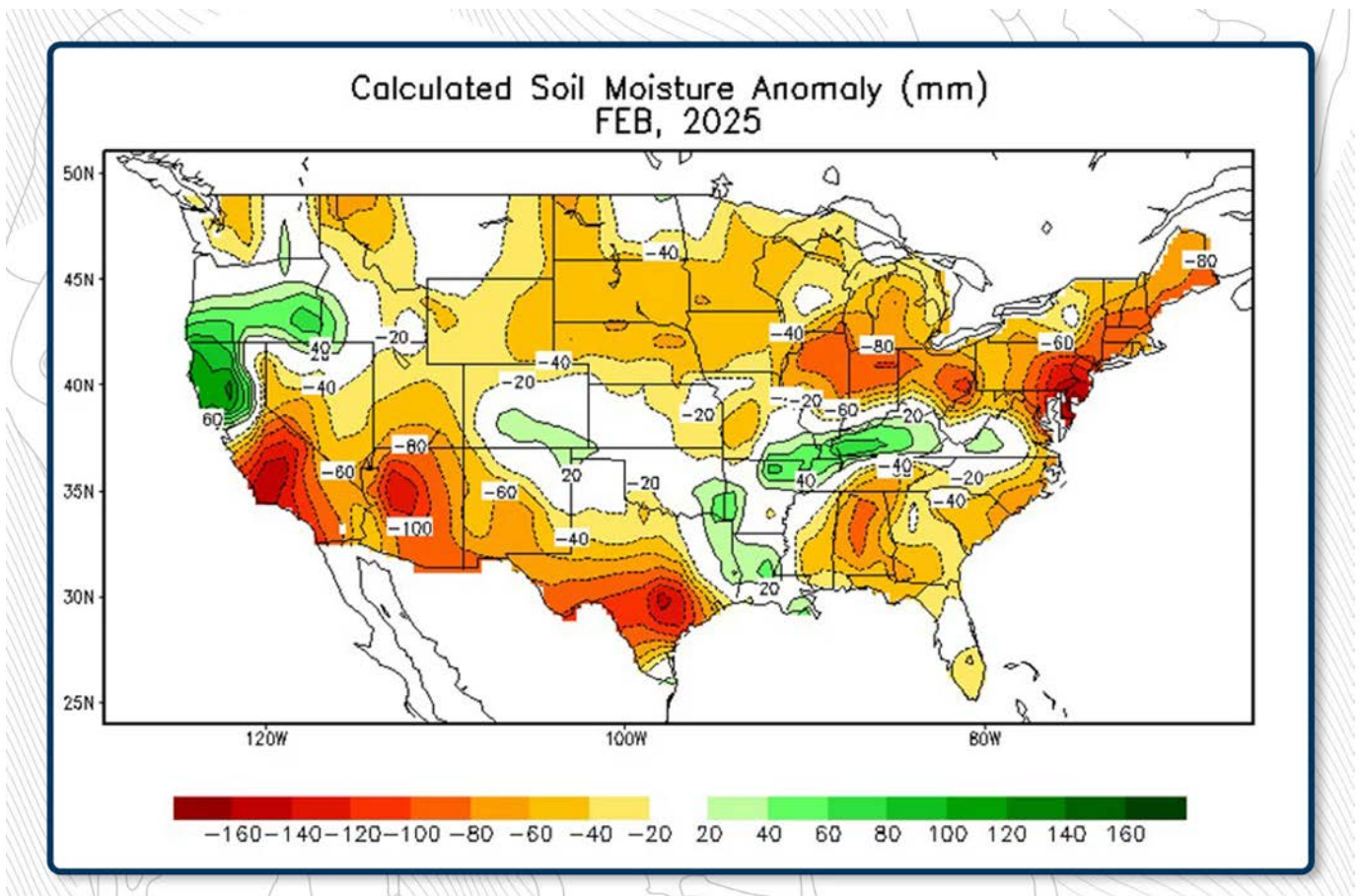
If paying by credit card, please email Amber Breed at 1971wvgcsa@gmail.com

Time To Get Charged Up

By Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region

The 2024 season ended on an extremely dry note in the Northeast, with record-setting drought in some locations. The effects of a drought on grass and a golf course have been discussed at length, but what sometimes gets lost in the conversation is how last season's issues can linger into the following season if nothing corrective happens.

This spring is a good example of that. By comparing soil moisture data from this time last year to this year, it's easy to see how dry the region is. Again, we understand how drought affects grass. Now think about everything that happens in the spring to get the course ready. Many courses are probably aerating soon, if they haven't already. Many others are continuing work on projects involving sod or seed. Water is necessary for grass to grow, and whether it is used to help promote growth to close aeration holes, water-in fertilizer or preemergence herbicides, or water sod and seed, a reliable water source now is important. If you have the ability to charge your irrigation system, I would do so as quickly as possible. Even with rain, the soils in many parts of the Northeast need supplemental water to bring back sufficient moisture levels to sustain turf health.



It's easy to see how abnormally dry the soils in the Northeast have been lately. (National Weather Service)

Remember, besides plant growth and healthy root function, adequate soil moisture is required for release of fertilizers, preemergence herbicide activation and many other vital turf management practices. While we all hope for rain to replenish soil moisture and help get grass growing this spring, superintendents can help themselves by getting the irrigation system charged and running as quickly as possible.

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



The extremely dry fall in the Northeast turned into a relatively dry winter, and things haven't improved much as spring begins.

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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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