



The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 13, Issue 11
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West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Board of Director's Message

I hope everyone had a successful season and that you all have some much needed R&R in your immediate future.

I am happy to announce that we have decided to expand the size of the board. For the first time in my tenure as a board member, we had a surplus of qualified candidates seeking Superintendent board member positions. Instead of having to turn someone away, we decided to accept all nominees. It's nice to see this newfound interest to be involved in our association and I am confident the expansion of the board will help to promote our continued growth.

Not only did we increase our total Superintendent board member count, we also decided to add another Class E member to the board. Marshall Klay, of Advanced Turf Solutions, is back on the board. Welcome back friend...I figured you'd be missing it! We have planned to meet virtually once again in January.

Finally, we are hopeful some of you might have some nice photos to share of your golf course that we can add to our new website - www.wvgcsa.org. Please feel free to send whatever you may have to Amber or myself.

Thank you,
Bobby Cline, CGCS
Guyan G&CC

WVGCSA New Website: www.wvgcsa.org

Happy Thanksgiving!!!



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2022 WVGCSA Board Contact List

Bobby Cline, CGCS– President
Guyan G&CC
Office # (304)
Cell # (304) 730-8202
bcline@guyancc.com

Mitch Roush – Vice President
Riverside GC
Office # (304) 773-5354
Cell # (304) 675-0157
mitchroush@hotmail.com

Mike Bogroff – Board Member
The Pines CC
Office # (304) 296-3462
Cell # (304) 290-9314
mike.golfcoursesuper1@gmail.com

Kirby Lewis-Class E Member
Mountain State Floratine
Cell # (304) 483-4377
turftech007@gmail.com

Jimmy Clinton – Board Member
Marietta CC
Office # (740) 373-5145
mccsuperintendent@yahoo.com

Amber Breed
Secretary/Bookkeeper
Cell # (304) 638-8978
1971wvgcsa@gmail.com

Nathan Armstrong – Board Member
Glade Springs Property Owners Assoc.
Office # (304) 763-5382
Cell # (407) 697-1677
nathan.armstrong@gladespringspoa.com

Tony Coppa – Past President
Oglebay Resort
Office # (304) 243-4199
Cell # (304) 280-0034
tcoppa@oglebaygolf.com

Jason Hart –Treasurer
Bridge Haven GC
Office # (304) 574-2120
Cell # (304) 751-5956
whohart@gmail.com

Andy Bates – Board Member
Bridgeport CC
Cell # (330) 844-0720
andybates84@gmail.com

Rich Puskavich, CGCS – Class E
Walker Supply, Inc.
Cell # (412) 997-6168
richpuskavich@walkersupplyinc.com

Brad Ullman – Class H Member
West Virginia Golf Association
Office # (304) 391-5000
Cell # (304) 482-3718
bullman@wvga.org

Jerry Stutler – Board Member
Little Creek CC
Cell # (304) 400-3054
jstutler@cityofcharleston.com

Marshall Klay – Class E
Advanced Turf Solutions
Cell # (304) 909-1511
mklay@advancedturf.com

Staying Levelheaded

By John Daniels, agronomist, Northeast Region

Golf courses throughout the Northeast have begun the annual process of winterizing their irrigation systems. Draining the lines to prevent freeze damage is a welcome sight as it signals the end of the golfing season for many. However, just because the irrigation pumps are powered down and the sprinkler heads are blown out doesn't mean that your work is completely done.

The next few weeks are an opportune time to correct sunken or uneven sprinkler heads that are limiting your irrigation uniformity. Completing this task when there is no need to irrigate, and the ground has yet to freeze makes for a simpler process. As you look to improve your irrigation uniformity, have staff members use a small bubble-level to ensure that individual heads are not only raised to grade but are truly level as this can improve the accuracy and precision of the spray pattern. Heads that are located on steeper slopes may not operate properly or they could be damaged by mowing equipment if you try to make them truly level, so in those cases it is best to align the heads with the surrounding ground.

With a typical 18-hole golf course having over 1,000 sprinkler heads, digging up and leveling each one might seem like an insurmountable task, particularly when trying to complete the work prior to the first snow. The good news is that most heads will probably not require significant adjustments. Oftentimes, you will only need to raise the sprinkler heads that are near the putting greens. The frequent accumulation of sand topdressing and bunker sand splash causes these heads to become recessed quicker than most other areas of the golf course. That being said, if you have been on a fairway topdressing program it will only be a matter of time before you need to adjust those heads as well. If it were me, I would focus on the greens first and then work my way out from there. Whatever you aren't able to finish this year can be completed early next spring. Another option is to work with an outside irrigation contractor to help expedite the process.

Northeast Region Agronomists:

Adam Moeller, director, Green Section Education – amoeller@usga.org

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

Elliott Dowling, agronomist – edowling@usga.org

John Daniels, agronomist – jdaniels@usga.org



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Due to the rising Coronavirus cases in the state, the Board has decided to cancel the Turf Conference for 2021. We understand everyone still needs education credits for their pesticide licenses so we have listed a few opportunities available this fall.

~ WV Dept. of Ag - <https://wvplants.wvda.us/SecurityLogin.aspx> - click on the Pesticide Programs tab and scroll to Recertification Course Locator.

~ Virginia GCSA Turf Conference, Charlottesville, VA - December 6-7, 2021

~ Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, Columbus, OH - December 6-9, 2021
<https://ohioturfgrass.org/mpage/CS>

~ Western PA Turf Conference, Washington, PA - February 22-23, 2022
<https://paturf.org/>



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