



The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 15, Issue 10
October 2023

West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Board of Director's Message

Thank you to all that attended the Fall Meeting at Bridgeport CC this month. Andy Bates and crew gave us a warm welcome and great conditions for our gathering. Congratulations to Andy Bates for winning the Century Cup, Rich Puskavich from Walker Supply for winning the Vendor's Cup, Tony Coppa for being elected Treasurer and Russ Stewart being elected as our newest Board member. We had a productive meeting with the focus surrounding our annual conference and how to improve attendance and make it more meaningful to members and our sponsoring vendors. We appreciate your attendance at this year's event on November 7th at Stonewall Resort and welcome any suggestions to make it better for the future.

I was honored to attend this year's GCSAA Delegate's Meeting in Kansas City/Lawrence as West Virginia's representative at the end of this month. I met many new people working hard across the country for our industry and was surprised to see many familiar faces who I have met over the years as they have passed through West Virginia. I was encouraged by the work that the national association and members are doing to tell our story and improve the industry for all. My greatest takeaways were the importance of establishing ourselves as environmental stewards in the eyes of regulatory agencies and promoting BMP implementation.

This month has been busy and productive for the WVGCSA and the GCSAA. If you have ideas to improve either, please reach out to me. Let's take our industry seriously and do our part.

**Mitch Roush
President, Riverside Golf Course**

**34th Annual
West Virginia GCSA Turf
Conference & Show
November 7th, 2023**



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WVGCSA 34th Annual Turf Conference

Monday, November 6th, 2023

6:00pm-7:30pm Early Conference Registration/Check In
6:00pm-9:00pm **Stonewall Ballroom** - Vendor/Exhibitor Set-Up
7:00pm-11:30pm **Hospitality Suite** - Presidential Suite

Tuesday, November 7th, 2023

All Conference Presentations will be held in the Stonewall Ballroom

Session Moderator: Mitch Roush, President of the WVGCSA, Riverside GC

7:00am-8:30am Breakfast/Trade Show Opens—Stonewall Ballroom
8:15am-8:30am **Welcome and Announcements**
8:30am-9:00am **“GCSAA Business”**
Katrin Wolfe, GCSAA
9:00am-10:00am **“Yes, You’re a Communicator”**
Guy Cipriano, Golf Course Industry Magazine
10:00am-11:00am **Trade Show—Stonewall Ballroom**
11:00am-12:00pm **“Leaf Spot Diseases”**
Richard Buckley, Rutgers University
12:00pm-1:00pm **Lunch—Stonewall Ballroom**

Session Moderator: Andy Bates, Vice President of the WVGCSA, Bridgeport CC

1:00pm-2:00pm **“Snow Molds”**
Richard Buckley, Rutgers University
2:00pm-3:00pm **“The Turf Insect Lab Year in Review: Wacky Weather, Wily Worms and Wicked Insects”**
Dr. Ben McGraw, Penn State University
3:00pm-3:15pm **Break– Soda**
3:15pm-3:45pm **“WVDA Pesticide Regulatory Update”**
Chad Carpenter, WV Dept. of Agriculture
3:45pm-4:45pm **“TBD”**
Greg Lovell, Aquatrols



*Rich Puskavich, Walker Supply - Vendor Cup Champion
Andy Bates, Bridgeport CC - Century Cup Champion*

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November 7th, 2023



**Official Registration Form
WVGCSA Turf Conference**

NAME _____

ADDITIONAL PERSONS _____

FACILITY _____

ATTENDING BANQUET _____ (Including Guests)

Registration Detail

Members: Number attending entire conference
_____ @ \$125 = \$ _____ (includes banquet)

Non-Members: Number attending entire conference
_____ @ \$165 = \$ _____ (includes banquet)

Guests attending banquet only _____ @ \$35 = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: WVGCSA
If you have any questions, feel free to contact
Amber Breed at 304-638-8978

Please return registration to:

WVGCSA

PO Box 335

Charleston, WV 25322

OR

1971wvgcsa@gmail.com

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Breaking the Mold

By Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region

Microdochium patch (*Microdochium nivale*), often referred to as pink snow mold, is a disease that can affect most cool-season grasses. Unlike its cousin gray snow mold (*Typhula* spp.), *Microdochium* patch does not need snow cover to develop. It will develop and grow in cool (32-46 degrees F), wet and overcast situations. At this time of the year, developing disease will not be under snow, which influences identification. Patches that develop without snow cover generally appear as small bronze or light brown spots. An easy identifier is the grey or brown “smoke ring” that develops on the outer edge.

In addition to weather conditions, high late-season nitrogen rates, excessive thatch and poor drainage can also contribute to outbreaks. One thing I want to highlight in particular is shade. I saw *Microdochium* patch on a few tees and fairway edges last week, always in shaded areas that are inherently weaker and wetter. In fall, grasses don't absorb as much water as they do during summer so any water in the form of rain or irrigation will linger longer at the surface than it would have a few months ago, making these areas more susceptible to disease development. Lower sun angles and cooler temperatures also contribute to longer periods of wetness.

I always recommend that courses improve drainage, dilute thatch and have a robust fungicide program to control diseases, but sometimes the answer is as simple as tree removal. If you're struggling with *Microdochium* patch in shaded areas, removing a few trees is a more effective and sustainable solution to the problem than relying on chemical disease control and other temporary fixes.

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



You don't always need fungicides to solve a disease issue, sometimes a chainsaw will do.



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Fee for additional Badges is 75\$ a piece
Fee for Full Conference Registration if not buying a booth is \$110.00
Fee for Lunch Sponsorship is \$75.00

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ADDRESS and Contact info _____

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NAME BADGE # 2 _____

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Thank you in advance for your continued support of the WVGCSA and thank you for
making these educational seminars and functions a continued success; without our
vendor sponsorships we would not be able to function as needed.

If you have any questions feel free to contact
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