



The Mountain State Greenletter

Volume 16, Issue 9
September 2024

West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Board of Director's Message

As fall starts to seep in, I am grateful that we are finally starting to get some relief from the heat and drought of this past summer in the Mountain State. I always appreciate this time of year when we get to welcome a slower pace, cooler temperatures and the time to focus on things away from the course itself.

One of the things that I look forward to is my participation in our fall events. I have been a part of the WVGCSA for over 27 years, and the further I get into my career, the more I realize how much I have been impacted by the education that I have received and the relationships that I've made as a part of this association. Because of this, I take pride in paying that forward to others and feel a sense of responsibility to ensure the success of our chapter in the future. I encourage you to do the same.

You have some great opportunities to do that right around the corner! Our fall events offer excellent topics and speakers, beautiful golf courses and facilities, and great fellowship.

Contact Amber Breed to register for:

Annual Meeting

Our fall meeting will be held on October 15th at Pete Dye GC with continuing education from the USGA and lunch and golf to follow. It's especially important to support these types of events so that we can continue to offer continuing education close to home.

Turf Conference

Our 35th annual Turf Conference will be held on November 12th and 13th in Charleston at Coonskin Park and the Mardi Gras Casio & Resort. It's sure to be a great time with quality educational sessions, vendor trade show and reception and fun social and networking activities. Discounted rooms are available at Mardi Gras Casino until 10/13.

The more participation we have the better the events are and the more we can support the association so bring your presidents, pros, and staff. The more, the merrier. I look forward to seeing you soon. I'm sure after this summer, we all have stories to share!

Mitch Roush

President, Riverside Golf Course



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Superintendents Association

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*Superintendent Members will receive a 33% discount off their
Fall Meeting Entry Fee at Pete Dye Golf Club!*

Upcoming Events:

Fall Meeting ~ Pete Dye Golf Club ~ October 15, 2024

Education Credits Given for GCSAA, WV & PA

10:30am Education Seminar - Zach Nicoludis, USGA

11:30am Lunch/Meeting and Golf to Follow

\$150 per person (meeting, food, golf and drinks included)

*

WVGCSA Turf Conference ~ Coonskin Park &

Mardi Gras Casino ~ November 12-13, 2024

Details and Registration Forms Included!



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WVGCSA Turf Conference
Coonskin Park & Mardi Gras Casino
November 12-13, 2024
Schedule of Events

WVGCSA 35th Annual Turf Conference

Tuesday, November 12th, 2024

All Conference Presentations will be held in the Clubhouse

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | <i>“USGA Handicapping”</i>
Chris Slack, WVGA |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | <i>“GCSAA Business”</i>
Katrin Wolfe, GCSAA |
| 2:00pm-4:00pm | <i>“USGA Rules of Golf”</i>
Ken Tackett, PGA Tour & Chris Slack, WVGA |
| 5:00pm-8:00pm | Trade Show/Vendor Reception—The Big Easy @
Mardi Gras Casino & Hotel in Cross Lanes, WV |
| 8:00pm-11:00pm | Hospitality Room—The Big Easy |

Wednesday, November 13th, 2024

All Conference Presentations will be held in the Clubhouse

Session Moderator: Tony Coppa, Treasurer of the WVGCSA, Oglebay

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 7:00am-8:00am | WVGCSA Board Meeting—Coonskin Clubhouse |
| 8:00am-8:30am | <i>Announcements and Breakfast</i> |
| 8:00am-9:00am | Trade Show—Coonskin Clubhouse |
| 9:00am-10:00am | <i>“The Making of Industry Golf Media”</i>
Guy Cipriano, Golf Course Industry Magazine |
| 10:00am-11:00am | Trade Show—Coonskin Clubhouse |
| 11:00am-12:00pm | <i>“TBD”</i>
Richard Buckley, Rutgers University |
| 12:00pm-1:00pm | Lunch—Coonskin Clubhouse |
- Session Moderator: Russ Stewart, Board Member of the WVGCSA, Berry HillsCC**
- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | <i>“TBD”</i>
Richard Buckley, Rutgers University |
| 2:00pm-3:00pm | <i>“Pumps and Controls 101”</i>
Kevin Kemerer, President, Precision Pump & Valve Service |
| 3:00pm-4:00pm | <i>“WVDA Pesticide Regulatory Update”</i>
Chad Carpenter, WV Dept. of Agriculture |

*WVGCSA Turf Conference at Coonskin Park, Charleston
Hotel and Vendor Reception at Mardi Gras Casino, Cross Lanes
November 12-13, 2024*

**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

Hotel Room Block Information:

\$98+per person

Call (304)776-1000 opt 8 for reservations

Rate valid until 10/13/2024

Making the Case for Proper Sand Storage

By Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region

Throughout the growing season, most superintendents apply sand topdressing to their greens to smooth the surfaces while diluting organic matter accumulation. The goal is to apply a uniform, light dusting of sand that falls into the turf canopy without mechanical incorporation. When sand is exposed to rain the particles will stick together, causing the sand to not spread evenly and stay in clumps on the putting surfaces. When this happens, sand needs to be dragged with a brush or mat, which can bruise turf. Sand that isn't worked fully into the turf canopy will be harvested by mowers, dulling reels and bedknives and driving your equipment manager crazy.

Dry sand is also important during aeration. Wet sand bridges over the aeration holes instead of filling them fully. Wet, smeared sand on the surface can also smother turf and lead to injury or worse. When topdressing bridges over the aeration holes, it gives the illusion that they have been filled. After an irrigation cycle or rain event, the bridged sand falls to the bottom of the holes and suddenly you see the gaps. When aeration holes are not completely filled, organic matter dilution is reduced and recovery can be extended.

The benefits of using dry sand are clear, but having it available when needed may not be that easy. You can purchase kiln-dried bagged sand or bulk sand. Bagged sand is great for certain processes, but it's cumbersome to handle and prohibitively expensive for aeration purposes. Bulk sand is less expensive but can lead to waste when it's dumped on the ground and will absorb moisture even under plastic covers if left exposed to the elements. Sand and delivery cost is not an insignificant expense, so having covered sand storage bins will give a return on investment by reducing waste and keeping sand dry.

Storage with a solid floor and sealed walls is ideal. Properly engineered concrete floors that can endure tri-axle truck deliveries and loader buckets should be a priority. Covering the storage bins will further protect the materials from contamination and keep them dry. The roof should be tall enough so delivery trucks can back in and unload without any material handling by the maintenance team. Having dry sand on hand will facilitate light and frequent sand topdressing applications and better incorporation into aeration holes. Material savings, more-efficient maintenance and less impact on playability from topdressing and aeration are all great selling points for an upgraded sand storage area.

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



Covered sand storage bins will reduce waste, minimize contamination and help you keep dry sand on hand for various maintenance practices.



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Vendor Registration Form

WVGCSA 2024 ANNUAL TURF CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTOR REGISTRATION FORM

Fee for Full Conference Registration is \$350.00 and includes two Name Badges
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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be sent to the address provided

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
Amber Breed at 304-638-8978 or by email at 1971wvgcsa@gmail.com



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