

The GREEN Breeze



Official Publication of the Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents Association

December 2013

Volume 65

Number 6

Inside This Issue

The Ins and Outs of Getting Certified	page 3
USGA	page 4
OTF: It's About Chemistry	page 5
GSCAA	page 6
Buckeye Turf: Frost	page 7
Winter Golf	page 8

Mark Your Calendar

OTF Conference & Show Columbus	December 3 - 5
Christmas Get Together	December 12
Golf Industry Show Orlando	February 3-6

Announcements

Upcoming Event



From the President

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all of you, by the time you are reading this the holiday cheer will be in full swing! It is hard to believe a year has passed already, time really does fly. As I type we have already had a snowfall that covered the ground.

All predictions are for a cold and snowy winter, it has been some time since Mother Nature has really been cruel to us. I know many welcome the snow and slower pace of the "off season". While I do enjoy the break in the action and the crisp fall mornings, you can keep the white stuff, single digit temperatures and all that comes with that stuff. I would rather be mowing greens than shoveling snow or spreading salt.

I can remember as a teenager how much fun it was to take my old beater Cutlass out for a trek on snow covered roads or to practice my doughnut skills in an empty parking lot. Nowadays all the weatherman has to do is mention "white death" and there is a rush on the local Kroger and all the highways are gridlocked. Now I try to avoid the highway like the plague—nothing is worse than getting caught up in a traffic nightmare. The snow we got earlier this week, November 12, was a surprise to me. The weatherman actually got it right!

As I was headed home late in the evening it was 57 degrees and they were calling for rain changing to snow around midnight, yeah right I thought. I got up at 2 am to let the dog out, and it was snowing hard and the ground was already covered! Score one for the weather man! They always crack me up with how they clamor to predict the first snowfall or even frost each year. Usually the first few predictions are just wishful thinking but not this year.

I would like to welcome our two new board members, Dave Peru and Jeff Helvie. Dave is the superintendent/general manager at the World of Golf in Florence, Kentucky. I have known and worked with Dave for many years, and he will do a great job for our chapter. Jeff is the new commercial representative on the board and although I can remember when

continued on page 11



2013 Board President
Ron Freking

Greater Cincinnati GCSA Happenings

Scholarship Donation Received

- The Board of the Greater Cincinnati GCSA would like to acknowledge and expresses its gratitude to Mrs. Penny Murphy for a significant donation to the Scholarship Fund for 2013 in the name of her late husband Howard Hammel.
- The Howard Dammel Turf Scholarship is named after Howard Dammel.
- Mr. Dammel was a member of Kenwood Country Club and for years served as a liaison between the then named "Golfer's League" and our own organization. He was an active advocate of our association and the superintendents standing as a professional.
- For years he attended our meetings socialized with members and played golf with us.
- It was a sad day when we lost our friend. His wife at the time, the now remarried Penny Murphy, began contributing to a scholarship at the time and has continued since.

The Board of the Greater Cincinnati GCSA wishes all its members, supporters, and friends a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.



**2014
Greater Cincinnati
Golf Course Superintendents Association
Board Members**

**PRESIDENT
RON FREKING
DEVOU PARK GOLF COURSE
1344 AUDUBON ROAD
COVINGTON, KY 41011
859.802.6875**

**COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE
JEFF HELVIE
HARRELLS TURF
3147 VICTORIA AVE
CINCINNATI, OH 45208
859.816.7975**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR
&
CHAPTER ADMINISTRATOR
BOB LACHANCE
513.476.5669**

**VICE-PRESIDENT
DAN WALTER
CITY OF BLUE ASH
4343 COOPER ROAD
BLUE ASH, OH 45242
513.678.3372**

**TRUSTEE
SEAN WALTERS
O'BANNON CREEK GOLF CLUB
6842 STATE ROUTE 48
LOVELAND, OH 45140
513.554.1646**

**MAILING ADDRESS
GREATER CINCINNATI GCSA
P. O. BOX 115
LEBANON, OH 45036**

**(E-MAIL)
LACHANCE@ZOOMTOWN.COM
FAX 513.228.1587**

**SECRETARY/TREASURER
KYLE WILLIAMS
IVY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
7711 IVY HILLS BLVD.
CINCINNATI, OH 45244
513.560.9890**

**TRUSTEE
DAVE PERU
WORLD OF GOLF
7400 WOODSPPOINT DRIVE
FLORENCE, KY 41042
859.628.9094**



Annual Elections: The Passing of the Old Guard to the New Guard



The Ins and Outs of Getting Certified

By *Jim Pavonetti CGCS*

As just about every turf professional knows, the Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) designation is the highest level of recognition a golf course superintendent can achieve. In the job market, it is a professional designation that sets you apart from others, especially when pursuing a higher-level position. Once hired, it shows your employer that you are continually striving to enhance your skills and remain on the pulse of the industry as you pursue the continuing education needed to maintain your certification.

Though earning this status has always meant satisfying a series of criteria, in 2001, GCSAA made the requirements for becoming certified considerably more stringent. About 25 percent of GCSAA Class A members currently hold the CGCS status, but, admittedly, the numbers pursuing certification seem to have fallen off. The word on the street is that many superintendents are discouraged by what now appears to be an overbearing and time-consuming amount of work.

Well, having recently gone through the new certification process, I can assure you that it's not all that bad—and actually well worth the effort. I feel that completing the process has made me a better manager and better

superintendent, which in effect, has made me more valuable to my club. I learned more effective ways of managing my time and my staff. I discovered things that I could be doing better or that I should be doing but wasn't. And working through the program gave me the tools I've needed to enhance any areas of weakness and also capitalize on my strengths.

What follows is a rundown on what it takes to become a certified golf course superintendent.

First Things First: Becoming Eligible

Before you can begin the certification process, you have to be sure you meet the minimum requirements. These include years of experience as a superintendent and level of education. Your educational level will dictate how many years of experience as a superintendent you will need and how many education points you will have to complete before moving forward with the certification process. The chart on page 9 specifies these requirements.

The eligibility requirements don't stop there. You also must: Be currently employed as a golf course superintendent, possess a pesticide applicators license or pass the GCSAAS IPM exam if your state or country does not have a pesticide license, complete the online

Self-Assessment Tool, which can be found on the GCSAAS website, and complete a certification portfolio.

ABOUT THE SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Working through the online self-assessment helps you identify how you measure up to the competencies needed to perform successfully as a superintendent—and on the exam. Under each competency, you'll find the education resources—seminars, books, or articles—available to help you strengthen any gaps you might uncover in your knowledge and abilities in all areas. Another bonus: You'll receive .5 CEUs for completing this assessment.

About the Portfolio

Here's where things get a little more challenging. The certification portfolio is a collection of 33 sections that have to be completed before you can submit your application for the program. These sections are divided into three parts: Work Samples, Skill Statements, and Case Studies. The portfolio was created to evaluate your understanding and application of the management and problem-solving skills needed to run a successful golf course

continued on page 9



ArmsTurf PRODUCTS
D.M. Boyd

Your Trusted Choice for Quality and Consistency.

For More Information Contact:
Bill Easterday
Cell: 614.580.9260
www.armsturf.com



The Greater Cincinnati Golf Association

"You make our championship courses look great!"



tvSTS spraytanksynergy
tv23 surfactantinfusednitrogen

New Specialty Products Available **ONLY** From:



thehillcompany

Greater Cincinnati Location
Doug Hill (859)380-5025
www.turfventures.com



MARK KOCHENDORFER (513) 600-5157

GREENSKEEPER
TURF MANAGEMENT



FLORATINE

Rooted in Science.

Renovate, Restore, and Replenish

By Keith Happ, director, North-Central Region. November 8, 2013

It is that time of year. Leaves are being collected, one or two key projects are in the final stages of completion and educational conferences are just around the corner.

As of late October, the leaves are still hanging on the trees. In fact, most superintendents visited this fall have commented on the lack of color and the late leaf drop this fall. Still, when the leaves do hit the ground they will need to be collected and removed. When it comes to priorities, focus on removing leaves from the bunkers first, because the Rules of Golf limit the options for searching for a ball in a hazard. There are always those

Mr. Sandman

By Bob Vavrek, senior agronomist, North-Central Region. October 28, 2013

It's getting real close to putting courses to bed across the north-central tier of states. By now, most facilities are in the process of winterizing irrigation systems and protecting turf from winter diseases.

Never underestimate the value of applying a substantial application of sand to the greens as the final maintenance practice of the season. Many courses fail to apply adequate

key bunkers that come into play more than others. Check and clean those first, along with greens and surrounds, and then areas of rough can be cleared of leaf debris.

Travel throughout the North-Central region has provided evidence that golf facilities are investing in their future. All levels of renovation are underway. Everything from renovating a single tee or bunker to regrassing greens has been observed this fall. In every case, superintendents are trying to complete these projects before the weather dramatically slows grass growth. During fall, days are short and the soil temperatures are

sand to the greens during the months of peak play and, consequently, fail to dilute the natural accumulation of organic matter. Pre-winter topdressing can partially compensate for inadequate inputs of sand during the summer.

Sand can also provide some protection from wind desiccation during an open winter and by the time it's ready to resume mowing next

low. These factors make it challenging if projects are expected to be completed without inconveniencing players. Be realistic about project work. Seed and/or sod need time to mature prior to cold weather shuts down turf growth and development.

Fall and winter is also the time for state and local turf conferences. Conferences provide the opportunity to listen to new techniques and determine if research findings from university projects can be incorporated into your turfgrass maintenance program.

spring, the topdressing sand will have disappeared into the putting surface.

Best of all, the sand is applied when it will have the least effect on play. You've tucked in your greens with fungicides and given them a drink of water, now it's time for "Mr. Sandman" to put them to sleep.

Greensmaster® TriFlex™ & TriFlex Hybrid Greensmowers

TORO Count on it.

- Cutting Performance
- Productivity
- Versatility
- Serviceability

New!



CENTURY Equipment



Serving the Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky areas.

1 - 8 0 0 - 3 4 6 - 0 0 6 6



Shop Online

www.centuryequip.com

What you want, when you want it.
24hrs a day!

Multi-site mode of action that controls the toughest turf disease before they begin

Secure™ fungicide is a multi-site contact, in a unique chemical class that is the ideal rotation partner with Daconil Action™ for season long contact protection. Now, systemic fungicides no longer replace your contact applications, but rather compliment for inside out protection. Your rotation, your way.

GreenCastOnline.com/Secure

For more information contact:

Gregg Schaner
614-402-3701
gregg.schaner@syngenta.com



SECURE Fungicide **syngenta**

©2013 Syngenta. Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using Syngenta products. The instructions contain important conditions of sale, including limitations of warranty and remedy. All products may not be registered for sale in all states. Please check with your state or local extension service prior to buying or using these product. Daconil Action™, Secure™, the Purpose icon and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. Syngenta Customer Center: 1-866-SYNGENT(A) (796-4368). MW 1LRL2005

It's All About Chemistry

By Brian Laurent, Executive Director, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation

With just a few days remaining before our industry gathers in Columbus for the OTF Conference and Show, I'm reminded of how much our industry is dependent on chemistry.

If you are planning to attend some of our education sessions during the week, you will likely to hear a lot about chemistry! Some of the industry's leading researchers as well as some of your peers will be discussing results of projects and studies involving the latest products available for use and some still in the developmental phase. These chemistries can help you become more efficient in controlling diseases and pests, can allow you to stretch your budget a little further, and provide a quality product for your stakeholders.

Likewise, exhibitors are equally dependent on chemistry. With thousands of potential customers expected during the show, there's no better opportunity to develop rapport with these individuals. It's no secret that the more you put into it, the more you get out of it! If you're exhibiting at this year's show, I encourage you to be creative with your space, stay in front of your table and engage

attendees. It's tough to build any chemistry with your prospects when you're not actively welcoming people into your space!

For the turfgrass manager, it's also an opportunity for you to strengthen your ties with these exhibitors. Keep in mind that most of these representatives are on the road during the season meeting with your peers every day. Not only can they provide you a solution through their products and services, but they can connect you with another individual that may be encountering similar situations at their facility... whether it's turf related or not.

For the turfgrass manager, it's also an opportunity for you to strengthen your ties with these exhibitors. Keep in mind that most of these representatives are on the road during the season meeting with your peers every day.

There's no better place to be than in Columbus during the OTF Conference and Show to learn about the latest chemistries and to develop those relationships within the business that are so vital to your success.

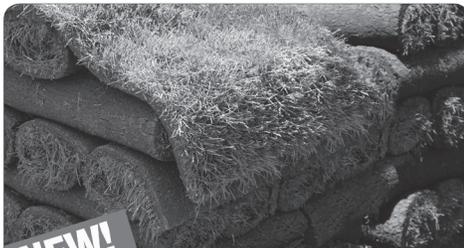
With just days before we open the doors at



the convention center, the number of companies exhibiting and number of registered attendees are both well above where we were at this time last year. If you have not already registered, do not wait! Our pre-registration discounts end on November 26th. If you are not able to register by the 26th, don't worry! On-site registration will be available during the entire event.

For more information, including a list of exhibitors, classes, speakers and available credits, visit www.otfshow.org. I hope to see you December 3-5 in Columbus!

GREEN VELVET SOD FARMS



NEW!

Now carrying **Apex-10 Plant Health Stimulant!**



We not only recommend it, we use it on our own farm!

Green Velvet's unbeatable product line-up fits all your lawn care and ornamental needs.



Providing solutions to customers throughout Southern Ohio

Craig Fryman 937-603-8414 craig@greenvelvet.com

Chris Noble 937-684-1854 chris@greenvelvet.com

Call 1-800-342-0571 • Fax: 937-376-1153
greenvelvet.com info@greenvelvet.com



1st Choice for Turfgrass Since 1959

Great Lakes Regional Roundup

By John Miller, CGCS. GCSAA Great Lakes Field Staff Representative



As another year draws to a close the education season is in full swing. OTF will be taking place the 1st week of December and there are hours of education available. There will also be regional education sponsored by the vendors

that you will want to take advantage of in order to help maintain your Class A standing or to work closer to becoming a Class A golf course superintendent.

Taking the education and putting it to good use on your golf course is only part of the process, the other part is to make sure you record it with GCSAA. It is very simple to do and only takes about 2 minutes. You log onto the GCSAA website at www.gcsaa.org and look across from your name and click on where it says Submit Points. On that page scroll down to the Education Point Affidavits and select top option if you have a pre approved code, if not select the option that is right for the education you are trying to get credit for and then follow the instructions from there. If it is a chapter event, your

Greater Cincinnati GCSA will record it for you.

In other news from GCSAA, the EIFG received two generous donations, one from the PGA of America for \$100,000 and another from the PGA Tour for \$100,000. The Rounds for Research program was a huge success in its first full year raising \$146,000 with 80% of that money going back to chapters. I encourage all of you to have your club donate rounds of golf through your chapter and if you are having trouble getting the club to donate, call me, I will be happy to visit your club and talk with them about the benefits of the program and how it will eventually benefit the club. Once they understand the program and that they have control over the rounds they donate, it is a pretty easy sell. I am challenging all of my chapters to have at least 20 rounds donated to Rounds for Research this year. If the Greater Cincinnati Chapter can donate 20 rounds I think you will be amazed at how much money comes back to the chapter.

It is time to register for the GCSAA National Conference and Show. It will be help in

Orlando, Florida this year from February 1st – 6th. There will be numerous new seminars, new educational events, a huge tradeshow floor and with the condensed schedule, you can do it all and be gone less than 1 week and that includes playing in the golf tournament. Right now airfare is relatively cheap and we have rooms set aside at numerous hotels at reasonable rates. There were no printed brochures mailed this year, so in order to register you will need to go to the GCSAA website. While you are there don't forget to check out the new regional pages and take advantage of what is there, regional forums, regional GCSAA TV, and much more. Please check it out and let me know what you think. I hope you have had a great year! Enjoy the off season, and I hope to see you around somewhere soon!



Wolf Creek Company
I-TEAM
 Intelligent Turf Systems

800-488-7305

JACOBSEN
 RAIN BIRD

Turf care products for those who need to get it done!
 Solid engineering, field experienced, knowledgeable team.
 Partnered to help you stretch tight budgets, get more done in your limited time, and make your life easier.
Irrigation Turf Equipment Lake Management Drainage

GREEN PRAIRIE TURF Inc.
We got the Sod!

Tall Fescue Sod
Bentgrass Sod
 Soil Base or 90/10 Sand, Peat Base
Bluegrass Sod
Zoysiagrass Sod

For Pickup or Delivery Call
 513-523-2634

Visit our Web Site at:
greenprairieturf.com/

Green Prairie Turf
 Oxford, OH 45056

513-523-2634

Frost

By Dr. Karl Danneberger, The Ohio State University

Frost is a common reason for morning tee time delay. The reason for the delays is the damage that can occur from foot or equipment traffic to the turf when frost is present. Generally speaking, nice fall golfing days and frost go hand-in-hand. With more frost days expected, this is a good time to look at the conditions favorable for frost.

Frost occurs on clear cold nights when turfgrass plants re-radiate heat (exothermic reaction). As the plant loses heat to the atmosphere the plant leaf cools. If the plant temperature is cooler than the air temperature then moisture from the atmosphere will condense on the leaf. If the leaf temperature drops below freezing then the water freezes and frost forms. This will occur even if the air temperatures are slightly above freezing. At this time of the year it is not uncommon to have frost form even if the air temperature is in the mid to high 30's.

Frost does not form as readily on cloudy nights because the clouds reflect, or absorb and then re-radiate the energy back towards the turf. Thus, the plants receive heat from this re-radiation.

Frost also does not form as readily under conditions where a breeze is present. Through convection the mixing air closest to the plant and the atmosphere buffers the leaf temperature drop (also promotes evaporation of the water droplets from the leaf). Areas with little slope have a greater potential for frost than sloping areas (air moves downward resulting in a mixing).

Frost will normally form early in the morning before sunrise. This

makes sense because if the plants have been re-radiating energy throughout the night, the leaf temperature should be the coolest prior to daybreak. Actually frost may continue to form briefly even at daybreak due to the low angles of light coming from the sun may not directly hit the leaf.

Frost itself does not cause damage, but injury does occur when traffic occurs on frosted areas.

Turf damage is generally superficial. This is not to say that traffic should be allowed on frosted turf. If traffic occurs, whether it is foot

or mechanical, damage caused by crushing the leaf blade will occur.

Initially the symptoms will appear purplish to black in color (almost like an excessive Iron application). The damaged turf will then progress to a straw color. If no damage occurs to the crown, recovery will occur from the generation of new leaves.

continued on page 11

Editor's Note:
You may know what causes frost,
but do your golfer's know
and understand it?
Why not reprint this article in your facility
newsletter?



YOUR PLAYBOOK FOR GROWTH



OTF
OHIO TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

OTF Conference and Show
December 3 - 5, 2013

Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
GO TO WWW.OTFSHOW.ORG

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Jim Tressel
Wednesday
December 4, 2013
Keynote presented by



OHIO TURFGRASS FOUNDATION
614.285.4683 • info@ohioturf.org

Specializing in Bulk Dump Truck Commodities
Serving Southwestern Ohio

800-226-1391



BROWN TRANSPORT, INC.

www.browntransportinc.com
Check out Brown Transport on
Facebook & LinkedIn



HARRY EWERS & SONS
CART PATH PAVING SPECIALIST

TENNIS COURTS PARKING LOTS
LANDSCAPING MATERIALS

3512 Woodford Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 513.531.0023

Camargo C C Kenwood C C
Hyde Park C C Legendary Run G C
Western & Southern Open Cincinnati C C

Wehrkamp Enterprises, Inc.
Custom Aerification Since 1990

Greens, Tees, Fairways and Athletic Fields
Deep Tine, Coring, Core Collection,
Fairway and Athletic Field Core Pulverizing,
Fairway Verticutting and Top Dressing

Visit us at www.wehrkampenterprises.com to learn more.

Call us at **1-800-551-4265** for a quote or demo.



HELENA

People...Products...Knowledge...

Adam Dillon
513-314-1591
dillona@helenachemical.com

People...Products...Knowledge... is a registered trademark of Helena Holding Company. © 2013 Helena Holding Company.

Winter Golf

By Clark Throssell, Ph.D.

Good or bad, the winter golf season is about to start. The good, at least in some cases, is the revenue that comes with golfers paying for golf and spending money in the clubhouse. The bad is the wear and tear on the turf. Before the winter golf season kicks off, take a little time to consider the impact of winter golf on the turf at your golf course.

Winter Golf Policy

Does your golf course have a written policy on winter golf? If so, great. If not, get started on a policy today before decisions need to be made. Each golf course should develop a policy that suits its particular needs. The only item that needs to be in every policy is that the golf course superintendent has the final say if the golf course is open for play or not.

Turf Problems Caused by Winter Golf

Traffic wears away the tufrgrasses canopy leaving the crowns exposed to harsh winter weather and even more damage from subsequent traffic. Anything you can do to spread traffic out is a good thing. Your goal should be to prevent concentrated wear in a confined area. Having several cups on

each green allows the pin to be rotated thus spreading out wear. Entry and exit points around greens always suffer the effects of wear. Watch these areas closely and use ropes to guide traffic to reduce wear in a single location.

Each golf course should develop a policy that suits its particular needs. The only item that needs to be in every policy is that the golf course superintendent has the final say if the golf course is open for play or not

On tees you can adopt one of two strategies to manage wear. The first is to move tee markers regularly throughout the winter golf season to avoid wear in any single spot. The second strategy is just the opposite: confine the tee markers to a very small section of the tee and let the golfers wear out that section. In spring, either sod the worn out area or implement a high intensity recovery program that includes overseeding to induce recovery.

On fairways and rough, scattering traffic to avoid wearing out a single spot is the goal.

This is much easier said than done given that some golfers seem to ignore all direction signs on the golf course. Take photos in winter that show traffic patterns to document the damage caused.

In late winter/early spring, frost on green grass is always a concern. Fortunately, experienced golfers are aware of the damage that can be done by traffic over frost covered turf. Reminding the early morning regulars about frost delays can go a long ways to minimize the problems from traffic on frost covered turf. And it never hurts to remind the pro shop staff of the importance of not allowing golfers out until all the frost has melted when the grass is green in the spring.

One winter problem that is common in our region that is difficult for golfers to grasp is playing golf when the upper inch or so of the soil profile has thawed and the soil below remains frozen. The potential for damage on putting greens under these conditions is great. Pressure from foot traffic causes the thawed soil to displace, or shift, above the frozen soil. When the upper inch or so of soil shifts, the putting surface becomes

continued on page 11

Effective Solutions, Quality Products and Superior Service!

Harrell's gives you peace of mind through assurance, quality, and integrity—standing behind every product we manufacture, sell and apply.

Specializing in all your fertilizer and turf protection needs.

POLYON

Harrell's
Growing A Better World™

Jeff Helvie
859.816.7975
jhelvie@harrells.com



SOUTHERN IRRIGATION SERVICES

2275 MORGAN-ROSS ROAD
HAMILTON, OH 45013
PHONE 513.738.3002
FAX 513.738.8300

MICHAEL YERKES

CAPABILITIES:

- ♦ VIBRATORY PLOWING
- ♦ TRENCHING

PAST CLIENTS:

- ♦ BOONE LINKS G.C.
- ♦ COLDSTREAM C.C.
- ♦ KENWOOD C.C.
- ♦ CLOVERNOOK C.C.
- ♦ STONELICK HILLS G.C.
- ♦ Miami View G.C.
- ♦ WYOMING G.C.

Turf EQUIPMENT SALES LLC

NEW • USED • GOLF CARS

(937) 515-6774

jsheares@tesalesohio.com

8591 Harperpoint Dr. • Cincinnati, Ohio 45249



LICENSED DEALERS FOR:

• BUY
• SELL
• TRADE

Zimmer Tractor

Summit Turf Equipment Co.
Specializing in Used Turf Equipment

AerWay

First Products
INNOVATIVE TURF EQUIPMENT

VENTRAC
Versatility by Design

Kubota

AgriMetal

TURF EX
INNOVATIVE TURF SOLUTIONS

SCAG
POWER EQUIPMENT

WWW.TESALESOHIO.COM

operation.

I know, right now you're thinking, "You have to be kidding me, right?" Admittedly, the portfolio is one of the biggest stumbling blocks in superintendents' motivation to become certified. I'm not going to say it's not a lot of work, but you can begin building a portfolio at any point in your career, even as an assistant, and if you're a superintendent, you're probably already doing what's required in some of the sections anyway. Take the Work Samples section. Here, you have to provide evidence of tools and documents that you use to manage staff. This might include employee reviews, employee training, job descriptions, or a meeting agenda... things you have pretty readily available.

One thing that you should be sure to download from the GCSAAs website is the Portfolio Scoring Rubric. This is a great vehicle for helping you make sure that you do not leave any part of an answer out. It is what the judges use to grade your portfolio, so reviewing it can prove to be a great time saver, particularly since any errors or omissions will require that your portfolio be returned to you for revision. Ugh.

I have judged six portfolios in the past three years, and the most common reason any

GCSAA Point Requirements

Level of Education	Superintendent Experience	Total Points
Bachelor's degree in turf or plant science	3 years	3 (2 edu)*
Other bachelor's degree plus associate's degree in turf/plant science, or equivalent two-year turf certificate (i.e., Michigan State, Penn State)	3 years	3 (2 edu)
Other bachelor's degree	4 years	5 (3 edu)
Associate's degree in turf/plant science, or equivalent two-year turf certificate (i.e., Michigan State, Penn State)	4 years	5 (3 edu)
Turf certificate/short courses (400-hour minimum) (i.e., Rutgers, Penn State World Campus)	5 years	10 (6 edu)
Other associate's degree	6 years	10 (6 edu)
No degree or recognized certificate	7 years	40 (32 edu)

**Points in parentheses represent the minimum education points required to reach total points.*

section is sent back for a redo—believe it or not—is because of grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors. I strongly suggest having someone else proofread your work before sending it in.

Right now, you have two options in putting together your portfolio: You can create an electronic portfolio, or you can submit a paper-based version. Regardless of which method you choose, GCSAA provides helpful templates on its website that are designed to

guide you in the creation of your portfolio while ensuring that you include all the necessary information.

If you choose the paper-based portfolio, you have to download the templates onto your computer, type in the answers, and print three copies of everything. Then you have to put them into separate binders and mail two of the copies to GCSAA, where they would then be sent to two different judges to be graded.

The new-and-improved electronic option

continued on page 10



Trust the **experts** for all of your **turf & ornamental** needs.

- Custom-blended & stock fertilizers
- Fertilizer available in bulk, bags and mini totes
- Minis, mid-grades, standards and rough grades
- Lab-driven blends for optimum results
- Premium-quality turf seed varieties
- Custom application available
- Nufarm & Applied Biochemist Distributor
- Now a distributor for Syngenta, Dow, BASF & Bayer.

Terry Burns, Golf Course Sales | 513.383.4804 m
Bob LaChance, Golf Course Sales | 513.476.5669 m
Damian Snyder, Plant Manager | 513.932.8904 o

proud to partner with



Spring Valley

The Ins and Outs, continued from page 9

allows you to enter your information directly into your e-portfolio by copying and pasting your information from the templates or from something you might have already saved on your computer. Your portfolio will be accessible for five years from the last time you opened it. Another plus with this method is that you will receive your results from the judges more quickly because there is no time wasted waiting for items to be mailed back and forth.

Completing the Certification Eligibility Worksheet

You'll complete this worksheet, which you can find on the GCSAA website, to establish and document your eligibility requirements. Once you've met the requirements, GCSAA will send you a certification application form to complete and submit with an application fee and your portfolio.

The Application

When your eligibility is approved and you have your portfolio ready to go, you can submit your application. Once the application is received, you will have one year to complete the remainder of the certification process, which includes the written exam, the attesting of your golf facility, and the evaluation of

your portfolio. The exam and attesting can be completed in any order within the one-year period.

This means planning ahead is essential. You have to keep in mind that: The attesting of your course must be conducted during the growing season.

A 60 day waiting period is required between exam retakes. So if for some reason you have to retake a section of the exam (you're allowed two retakes), you have to be sure there's ample time remaining in your one-year applicant period for completion. It really pays to wait until you're well prepared to take the exam before submitting your application.

If any additional information or materials are needed for your portfolio, it must be returned for reevaluation during your applicant period. I, personally, submitted my application in the early fall, which gave me the off-season to pass the exam and the whole summer to get my attesting done.

The Exam

The exam is a closed-book, multiple-choice test consisting of three parts with a total of 211 questions. You must pass each section of the exam with at least a 67 percent.

The Self-Assessment Tool mentioned earlier will identify for you the materials or seminars that will help you pass this exam, so it's important that you be honest with yourself when you work through this online assessment.

On the test, there are some things that you're expected to know from memory, such as the volume of a cube, converting cubic feet to cubic yards, calculating the percent slope, USGA specifications for greens, the GCSAAs Code of Ethics, general knowledge about turf species from all geographical areas, and how to figure depreciation. You are also expected to have some general knowledge about the Audubon Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Formulas for other, more difficult math problems are provided.

The Attesting

Fulfilling the attesting requirement may be the easiest part of the program for some and the most nerve-racking for others. This is when your local chapter assigns two certified superintendents to come and evaluate your golf course operation. This evaluation is conducted during your course's growing season and covers four major areas: course conditions (based on your budget), mainte-

continued on page 11

WINFIELD™

We're in the business of growing your business.

Solutions. Services. Insights.

When it comes to your course, you need a partner that's consistently above par. As one of the fastest growing distributors in the professional products market, we have over 80 locations across the country and close to 100 sales representatives dedicated to serving you. Count on us for the right products and the technical insights you need to help your business thrive.

Call your WinField representative today to learn how we can help you win.



Steve Haushalter

513-519-4945
shaushalter@landolakes.com

adjuvants • dyes/wetting agents • fertilizers • fungicides • herbicides • insecticides • micronutrients • seed treatments
WinField is a trademark of Winfield Solutions, LLC. © 2012 Winfield Solutions, LLC

Presidents Note, continued from page 1

he was the new kid on the block, he has been in our market for many years now. Jeff is with Harrells and even though the company name has changed a few times, he has always provided excellent service.

In an attempt to make all the board positions flow or progress the way they were designed to I will be serving another year as chapter president. I feel like we have a very solid,

professional board; and we will do our very best to bring you meaningful events in 2014.

Scholarship tournament plans are already underway and the new board will begin meeting in just a couple of weeks. We are going to take a hard look at how we do things and try to make sure we are using all our resources as wisely as possible.

I will put out the call now for anyone interested in serving on the board in 2015, now is the time to start thinking about this! Please step up if you feel so inclined, you will be glad you did, it is a great learning experience.

I will close by wishing everyone well in 2014, I hope it is a prosperous year for all of us!

Winter Golf, continued from page 8

rutted and roots are sheared at the interface of frozen and non-frozen soil. Removing the ruts from putting greens is very difficult and will take aggressive aerification, topdressing and rolling in spring to return the greens to an acceptable playing condition.

In our region, it is very common to have a period of snow and frigid weather followed by a mid-winter thaw with temperatures near 50 F. The warm temperatures bring out the

golfers and cause the upper inch of the soil to thaw while the soil below remains frozen. Allowing golfers to play under these conditions is inviting a problem. Using a soil probe to check if the soil on the surface has thawed is a quick way to determine if a problem exists. Remember, it may take until 1:00 or 2:00 pm for the soil on the surface to thaw. Closing the course on a warm winter day may not be popular, but preventing 10 or 15

golfers from causing damage to the greens to preserve the enjoyment of smooth greens for 400 or 500 golfers does make sense.

Maybe there will be snow cover all winter and you won't have to worry about winter golf. Instead, you can worry about your snow mold protection.

Credit: *The Perfect Lie*. Peaks & Prairies GCSA. November 2012.

The Ins and Outs, continued from page 10

nance facility, record keeping methods, and communication skills.

You can prepare for this visit by downloading the grading form that the attestors will use to evaluate your course. There is also the

"Attestor Guidelines" booklet available as a PDF, and an "Attestor Training Video," which also covers everything the attestors will be looking for.

Good luck!

Credit: *Tee to Green*. Publication of the Metropolitan GCSA. January/February/March 2013.

Best Sand®. Best selection. Best support.

Best Sand® has long been one of the best known names in golf maintenance. With the legendary quality and playability of our bunker sands, golf mixes, fertilizer-coated and infill sands, it's easy to see why. Now all the people and products of Best Sand have yet another club in their bag: the superior service and consistent support of the Fairmount Sports + Recreation team. And now more than ever, you're the winner.



FAIRMOUNT
Sports + Recreation

www.Fairmount-Sports.com
800.237.4986



Residex[®]

Solutions for Professional Pest
and Turf Managers

Customer Service:
(855) RESIDEX

PROUDLY SERVING CINCINNATI AND THE TRI-STATE AREA

Ryan Klein: 859.512.4838

Tom Brehob: 513.378.4371



visit us online @ residex.com

See how equipment and
agronomics can work together.



Equipment Sales:
Rich Coleman, 937-266-3377
richclmn37@gmail.com



JOHN DEERE
LANDSCAPES

Agronomic Sales:
Dave Haas, 513-544-7411
dhaas@johndeerelandscapes.com