

The GREEN Breeze



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Mark Your Calendar

Program at Paul Brown Stadium	August 20
Annual Meeting	October
The Links at Rising Star	TBA
OTF/OSU Research Field Day (Columbus) OTF Research & Educational Facility	August 7
OTF Scholarship Tournament Moraine Country Club	September 30
OTF Conference & Show Columbus	December 3 - 5

Announcements

Upcoming Event



From the President



2013 Board President
Ron Freking

Zoysia grass? Isn't that the stuff that "dies" in the winter? If only I had a dollar for every time I have heard that. Love it or hate it, I guess this grass is here to stay and is expanding in our area. When I started at Devou in the late 80's, there was Hyde Park CC, and that was about it. Now I can think of at least seven golf courses in our area that have turned to zoysia and one that has Bermuda fairways—warm season grasses are on the move. Sprig it, seed it, strip or solid sod, all these methods have been used; and I'm not sure there is a one size fits all for establishing this grass. I have always thought that if zoysia were easier or cheaper to establish there would be more courses growing this grass.

At Devou the rumor is that when Hyde Park first started the venture into zoysia, I think in the late 60's? Then superintendent at Devou, Vince Keller went over and got some plugs from Hyde Park. He must have planted them on a few tees and attempted to establish a nursery or two. I played golf at Devou as a kid in the mid 70's, and I can remember a few patches of zoysia here and there; it was great to hit off of back then too!

Well by the mid 90's, we were trying to grow bluegrass/ryegrass fairways; we had limited irrigation and some very poor soil. Then we found out about gray leaf spot, something had to change. Ralph Landrum was operating the course back then, and he loved zoysia as much as I did. Over the years I had developed two nurseries that totaled about 1.25 acres of zoysia sod. We had sodded some tees and an approach or two but that was about it. I talked it over with Mr. Landrum and decided on a program to start moving squares of sod into the fairways and encouraging the zoysia to spread. It was a long and grueling task that took four summers to complete, we just kept chipping away when time allowed. I have stripped my nursery completely bare three times and some areas even more than that. Today we enjoy about 90% coverage of all the fairway acreage. We are a long way from the quality of Hyde Park but good lies still abound.

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Greater Cincinnati GCSA Happenings

Meeting Information

- Visit our web site, log on, and make your reservation on the Calendar Page no later than noon on Thursday July 11, 2013. You can prepay by credit card or at the event.
- Registration will begin at 8:30 am. Please arrive on time. Limit of 40 golfers.
- We will be playing 9 holes. Lunch and speaker to follow.
- 9:00 AM Shotgun Start. Cost: Golf, Meeting, & lunch \$40.00 Meeting & lunch \$20.00
- Speaking will be Jerry Husemann of BASF on "Weed Management for Golf Course Naturalized Areas."
- Our Priority Policy from the Standing Rules will be in effect: In the event that reservations exceed the established limits for a Greater Cincinnati GCSA function, the following priority system will be initiated: Class A Superintendent, Class AA, Class Superintendent Member, Retired A and Honorary Members, Class C, Affiliate, Associate, and others. Those who have made reservations, but cannot be accommodated, will be contacted by phone as soon as possible.

This month's meeting is sponsored by
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Our Research & Scholarship Tournament at Blue Ash Golf Course



Host Facility for July: Hyde Park Golf & Country Club

Our host at Hyde Park Golf and Country Club is Pat O'Brian. Pat is originally from Canada. He has attended the University of Western Ontario, Pennsylvania State University, and Indiana Wesleyan University. Pat has worked in Cleveland, Canada, and before coming to Hyde Park nine years ago he worked at the Camargo Club for Doug Norwell. Pat and wife, Jen, have two daughters: Brynna, seven years old, and Maeve, two years old.

Key staff members at Hyde Park are Greg Nickerson, Assistant Superintendent from Rutgers; Dan Lawedowski, Assistant Course Superintendent Penn State; Diane Hatley, Rutgers; Mary Bush, Horticulturalist, Cincinnati State; Bobby Schenkel, Equipment Manager; Jimmy Good, Equipment Technician; and Eric Yates, Penn State. Interns are Jason Cox from Rutgers, Nate Benter, Purdue, and Tim Xinyu Tian, Ohio State.

The first golf course layout was a nine-hole course designed by golf

Scholarship Winners for 2013

Howard Dammel Scholarship Recipient: Amy Day

Amy is a freshman at Cincinnati State & Technical College and works at Cincinnati Country Club. Her major is Landscape Horticulture and Turfgrass Management.

Marion Mendenhall Scholarship Recipients

Kara Caldwell: Kara is the daughter of Troy Caldwell, superintendent at Meadowood Golf Course. She is a junior attending Northern Kentucky University with a major in Elementary Education.

Sara Hoarston: Sarah is the daughter of Paul Hoarston, superintendent at Ryland Lakes Country Club. She is a Senior at the University

of Kentucky with a Major in Psychology.

course architect, Tom Bendelow. Eleven years later in 1913, additional property was acquired and the golf course was expanded to eighteen holes. In 1920, 65 more acres of land were purchased and the course was then completely redesigned. The project was under the direction of Donald Ross, the most prominent golf course architect of the day. The Ross "touch" has been maintained throughout the golf course.

Thanks to Tom Brehob, the fairways are Meyer Zoysia. Tees are bentgrass, and the original soil greens are a bent/*Poa* mix. Renovations to the course were made to the bunkers in 2005, the irrigation system in 2008, and the rough has been undergoing continual renovation since 2008. The course plays 6,500 yards.

If you would like to see just how well done and useful a blog can be for communicating to your membership, please visit Pat's Blog at hydeparkgolfandcountryclub.blogspot.com.

of Kentucky with a Major in Psychology.

Peter Leming: Peter is the son of Craig Leming, superintendent at Wyoming Golf Club. He is a senior at The Ohio State University with a Major in Hospitality Management.

Charlie Tadge Service Award Recipient: Luke Cahil

Luke is the son of John Cahil, superintendent at Summit Hills Country Club. He is a junior at Cincinnati State & Technical College with a major in Turfgrass Management and is the Vice President of the Cincinnati State & Technical College Landscape Horticulture Club.



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Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Notes

By Brian Laurent, Executive Director, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation

As mentioned in last month's article, the OTF Turfgrass Research Field Day will have a bit of a new look this year. The Field Day Committee and OSU Turfgrass Science Team have worked together on a program that is geared towards enhancing your experience at this year's event, being held on Wednesday, August 7th.

For starters, we have reduced the number of stops from eight to five, each stop being thirty minutes in length. This change was made for multiple reasons. Feedback from attendees at previous events indicated that shorter stops did not allow for detailed, take-home information.

The new thirty minute stops will allow the turf team to get into greater detail about their studies and will allow for more question and answer time for you to gain insight on some of the latest tools. Additionally, the longer stops will allow us to offer more ODA recertification credit, providing an opportunity to gain some additional hours prior to September's ODA deadline. Finally, Field Day this year will also feature equipment demos. Industry partners will be bringing some of

their latest equipment for you to test in the afternoon. Both low cut and high cut equipment will be available for you to see, test and ask questions about.

We hope that you will join your fellow industry professionals at Field Day to learn about the latest innovations to enhance your facility. For additional information or to register, visit www.ohioturfgrass.com.

The new thirty minute stops will allow the turf team to get into greater detail about their studies and will allow for more question and answer time for you to gain insight on some of the latest tools.

This year's OTF Scholarship Golf Outing will be held at Moraine Country Club in Dayton, Ohio on September 30th. Designed by Alex "Nipper" Campbell, Moraine is regularly listed on *Golfweek's* list of top 100 classic courses. Thanks to host superintendent Jason Mahl and the members at Moraine for allowing us to utilize their facilities for this event.

The Foundation has experienced mild growth in 2013. We have realized nearly 5%

growth in the number of registered members compared to this time in 2012. Open and click through rates for our Weekly Clippings and Turf Tips emails continue to exceed industry averages. With that said, we are always looking to continue providing you with increased value for your membership and attendance dollars. Please let us know if you have ideas to enhance your experience as an OTF member or event attendee. I can be reached at brian@ohioturf.org or 614.285.4683.

20 *Turfgrass* 13
RESEARCH
FIELD DAY

Wednesday, August 7, 2013 → OTF Research & Education Facility
2710 North Star Road
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OTF
OHIO TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

Join us for the 2013 Turfgrass Research Field Day! This year's event format is being revised to provide you with more information on research and products that will make a difference at your facility. ODA and professional association credits will be available.

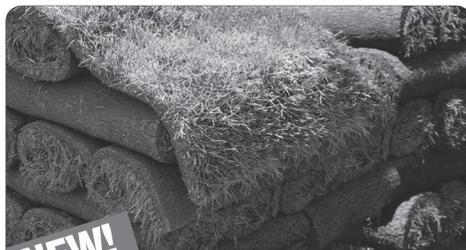
Member registration fee = \$40
Non-member fee = \$60

(If registering multiple people, please include their name and email address on a separate page and return to OTF with your payment and registration information.)

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Great Lakes Regional Roundup

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

Welcome to summer! The extended cool spring has left and the typical warm summer weather is now in place so superintendents are trying to survive until cool weather returns. GCSAA is here to help get you through the summer, we have webinars on issues you may be going through and don't forget, if you need information or articles you can print, you have access to the Turfgrass Information Files (TGIF) at Michigan State University as part of your GCSAA Membership. If you are not familiar with the TIF files, MSU has and is in the process of digitizing all turfgrass articles that have ever been written. You can search them by topic and the articles that have been written over time will then be available to you. It is a great resource and a great benefit for being a GCSAA member!

Legislatively there is always a lot going on in the golf industry. GCSAA is watching out for you as well. Chava McKeel, our government relations expert is watching Washington very closely on matters that affect golf course superintendents. Immigration reform, NPDES (yes we are still battling that issue) and many other items are at the forefront of our fight.

Chava's plate is so full GCSAA has decided to give her an assistant to help her and also to better assist the membership.

From time to time GCSAA will send out a legislative alert when we need our members help. These alerts are on the website and you can click on the alert, a prewritten letter will be there, you can read it, add your comments if you like, enter your zip code and it will be sent to your legislators on your behalf. It is a great way to tell your legislators how the decisions they make affect you and your golf course. They are definitely hearing it from the other side; they need to hear your side of the story too!

The first Round For Research auction ended June 16th with great results. There were 748 rounds donated for 2013. In the June auction we offered 669 rounds and 483 (72%) were sold raising \$106,000. \$79,256.80 went back to the chapters and \$26,889.20 went to the Environmental Institute for Golf. There were also cash donations by golf courses totaling \$1,450.00. It was a great auction for Rounds for Research and we are very excited about the upcoming August auction. We are look-

ing for similar results.

The Environmental Institute for Golf needs your help too. The EIFG helps golf course superintendents by providing funds for research, education, scholarships and GCSAA programs. The money raised directly impacts GCSAA members. GCSAA is constantly soliciting industry partners and friends of golf to make a difference but it is a difficult sale when only about 12% of GCSAA members now donate to the EIFG. The amount of the donation is not at issue, it is the number of GCSAA members that donate to please take five minutes to donate \$5 to the EIFG today. Your donation is tax deductible and easy to do at eifg.org. Thank you for your consideration in donating to the EIFG.



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The Other Side of the Fence

By Chuck Barber. St. Charles Country Club. St. Charles, Illinois

Choosing a career in golf course management (at any level) does not provide an easy lifestyle. It could be safely assumed when the general public inquires about the career of a golf course management professional—one of the initial questions would be, “Do you get to play a lot of golf?”

If you’re reading this article you’ve probably provided a much different answer than the person asking the question was expecting. As superintendents we choose a lifestyle that involves long hours, physical labor, exposure to the elements and work related stress that can come from multiple (and often unseen) angles. *The Godfather Part II* eloquently describes our decision to begin or maintain a career in golf course management: “This is the life we’ve chosen.”

Many of the individuals in our profession’s support network frequently come from this same background. It is not necessary to have spent years as a superintendent or assistant to be in our industry’s support network. However, several Class A, SM and C members have found their career paths have taken a turn in that direction. The reasons behind

the change in career paths vary a great deal and *On Course* reached out to a small sample of these members to discover more about the change they made from the field to sales.

Troy Tietjens (try spelling that without asking twice) served as an assistant superintendent to Steve Cook CGCS, General Manager at Oakland Hills Country Club near Detroit from 2001 to 2005. Troy then started as the assistant superintendent at Skokie Country Club for Don Cross, CGCS until 2006.

“The Godfather Part II” eloquently describes our decision to begin or maintain a career in golf course management: “This is the life we’ve chosen.”

Troy found a home with Liebold Irrigation in 2006. He first started as an irrigation service technician in the Chicagoland area and has evolved into the sales manager for JW Turf in Hampshire. “My transition out of the assistant superintendent role was largely due to curiosity to try something different. I had always had an interest in irrigation and I also had a decent background and interest in electrical work. The opportunity with Lei-

bold offered me a different direction but fell within the industry that I enjoyed so much. It also provided me opportunities to grow within the business and develop some truly great relationships with superintendents, and other industry professionals throughout the country.”

Jeff Leuzinger of Pearl Valley Organix grew up working for dear old dad, Peter Leuzinger, CGCS Retired, at St. Charles Country Club sweeping the shop floor and filling divots when he was but a lad. Jeff then went on to intern, be assistant superintendent and ultimately superintendent at Glen View Club from 1991 to 2003. The General Manager at Glen View Club at the time encouraged Jeff to strike out on his own as a small business owner, and he did just that. He operated a landscape company and a small distribution company from 2003 to 2011. Jeff began with Pearl Valley in January of 2012. When asked, Jeff will tell you what he draws from the most from his years in the field in his new role in the industry. “Relationships: I want to treat people the way some of the best in the business treated me as a superintendent.

continued on page 8

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The Other Side of the Fence, *continued from page 7*

The work ethic: being willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done and being willing and able to start over. Attitude: Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

Dave Blomquist, CGCS, spent more than twenty years as a superintendent at Naperville Country Club and Twin Orchard Country Club. Now working for Knox Fertilizer, Blomquist acknowledges there have been myriad changes. The most unexpected consequence for him has been the support he has received from different corners of the industry. "The generosity and support of friends always amazes me. People you don't really know, or thought you didn't know, show tremendous support."

It's not necessarily easier than being a superintendent, but there can be positive changes at home. "Life at home is so much better. I don't go home and worry about the heat, drought, rainfall and other stress related issues. I can actually relax and spend time with loved ones", says Joe Baert of Burriss Equipment. Joe was an assistant superintendent at Merit Club in Libertyville for three years. Joe indicated stress played a factor in his switch to equipment sales. "I realized I

was just too young to have that amount of stress in my life."

The switch to sales might seem like you'll get a great deal of your life back (weekends, holidays, etc) but that isn't necessarily the case. Dave Blomquist goes on to say, "There is more time to be with your family on the weekends, but there is a great deal more out of town travel, which balances out the equation."

Jeff Leuzinger agrees. "With children, the time gained on the weekend is taken during the week at the dinner table or at the basketball game." Travel is just one consideration when pursuing a career in the sales or support component of the golf industry.

Troy Tietjens has this advice to anyone considering a move into a different industry role. "Good Luck! It is a big decision to make and every individual will have their own circumstances and reasons to make a transition like this.

Take the time to really evaluate your decision and talk with other individuals that have made the change to the specific area you are looking into. Be prepared to evaluate achievements differently. There tends to be

a more visual sense of achievement when in an assistant superintendent role, such as green speeds, course details and all those visual things that you can be proud of. Sales achievements and service achievements are a lot different and a person thinking of making that change needs to be aware of that. The achievements are just as rewarding but vastly different."

Expectations are also something to be aware of when considering a sales or support position. Joe Baert explains, "Be sure exactly what the expectations are for that position and go for it." With any new venture comes surprises and this new, undiscovered country is no different. For some, the amount of travel and the new found intimacy of airport concourses were unanticipated. For others, the amount of experience that is required in multiple financing avenues for equipment purchases has been difficult to overcome. Finally, one of the most unexpected outcomes is the change in how an individual lives their life at the most fundamental level.

Dave Blomquist explains this challenge. "The biggest hurdle is accepting the fact that you no longer manage a golf course. Everything you've trained for and lived for is gone. Your *continued on page 9*

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The Other Side of The Fence, *continued from page 8*

life rhythms change. You are no longer enjoying all of the challenges that makes green keeping magical.”

Experience in the field can translate into success in sales and these individuals call on their training from working on golf courses every day. Joe Baert explains that “being able to relate to what a superintendent or assistant is going through in the heat of the season. Utilizing past experiences to point out different approaches to problems has proven invaluable.”

Dave Blomquist relies on positivity and a “customer is always right” attitude to make

the sale. “Dealing with end users is like dealing with members: they are always right. I never would have been able to deal with this philosophy had I not dealt with it as a superintendent.”

Troy Tietjens credits his experiences at Oakland Hills and Skokie Country Club with providing him a strong base to build upon. “I was allowed to be a big part of every aspect of those operations and I was given freedom to succeed. These opportunities provided a great base for me to continue my learning process as a young assistant superintendent along with obtaining the knowledge of equipment and irrigation which I still call

upon today. It also enhanced my idea of what “service” is, which I have tried to carry on throughout my career in this industry.”

Regardless of how an individual comes to the support sector of the golf industry they have all called upon their training in the field to help them excel. Their new positions also allow them to still be a large part of the business that they grew up in. Superintendents all rely on their expertise as well to make the best decisions possible for each facility that they service.

Credit: *On Course*. Publication of the Midwest Association of GCS. June 2013.

President’s Note, *continued from page 1*

Getting the stuff to spread can be aggravating, some places it just “takes over,” but in other areas it just doesn’t want to move. I have also found out that spraying glyphosate at light rates in the winter can give you a *poa* free stand of blue, rye, or even bent. Yes, it will be ugly for a while in the spring, but it is amazing how the cool season turf can recover and then repel the invading zoysia.

If you want zoysia on your course you have to be willing to intentionally kill some cool

season grasses. Sometimes when I tell others that I spray my fairways with glyphosate in the winter they just give me the blank stare, like you do *what?* As most of you know, it is a common practice in warm season turf country, a little glyphosate and preemergent of choice in the tank and go to it!

I know it’s not for everybody; and yes I am jealous of some of you with those incredible bentgrass fairways that look so great when my zoysia is still sleeping. The zoysia has

been a great fit for us at Devou and finally provided some quality fairways to play from. Another benefit is that the course plays a little longer and the ball tends to stay where you land instead of rolling out of the fairway. A drawback not to overlook is how wet this turf can stay in the winter and early spring.

Maybe you have a problem area on your course where zoysia (or Bermuda) would be a viable solution? Don’t be afraid to give it a try, you might like it!



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Moisture Meters: Looking Like the New “Must-Have” Tool

By Lydell Mack. Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. The River Club. Suwanee, Georgia.

As an assistant golf course superintendent, I don't look forward to the long days associated with growing bentgrass greens in Georgia during the summer heat. But lately at The River Club that trepidation has subsided substantially. Over the past two summers we've made wilt-watching of our A1/A4 greens less stressful than it has been in the past thanks to new tools: our soil moisture meters.

Soil moisture meters come in many shapes and sizes and have been around for a long time. Prices vary based on features, sensitivity, and reliability; but thanks to technological advances over the years, high-quality units are now quite affordable for many clubs. I don't intend to endorse one brand or style over another, but after a little research we decided to purchase two hand-held units for their portability, digital display, and price.

After insertion into the green, the units instantly display the soil's volumetric water content (vwc) to one tenth of a percent. Other features that we like are the ability to toggle between soil types and the storage capacity of the data logger, which allows you to save a running average of readings, as well

as download readings into a computer for record-keeping.

Many area superintendents I've spoken to have added a moisture meter to their arsenal of tools in recent years or plan to do so this year. Andrew Saft, assistant golf course superintendent at TPC Sugarloaf says, "Everything depends on weather, but if it's dry and we are depending heavily on irrigation, we use it every day. During tournament week, twice every day?"

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Likewise, Aaron Michaels from The Manor Golf and Country Club told me, "We use our meters on a daily basis from May to September. We use them to double check that the irrigation cycle ran and to determine how much to run the next day."

John McCarthy, golf course superintendent, from Crystal Falls Golf Club is in his second

year of moisture meter use and plans to purchase another for the upcoming season. At Crystal Falls during and since construction, McCarthy has spent many summers building an intimacy with his greens and considers wilt watching an art. "There is nothing like touching the soil in my opinion," he says. "And I have used a variety of methods to determine wilt: probing, canopy temperature gauge, etc., but the truth is I'm not as good as this tool."

This seems to be a common theme among meter users. The fact that it produces a quantitative value gives a sense of security when judging moisture content. It aids turf managers by taking the guess work out of evaluating soil moisture and speeds up the process too.

In addition to being a useful tool for wilt watching, McCarthy has also used his meters in other ways. "The meter helped me with individual head assessment and distribution," he says. "I was able to get a more uniform application by adjusting single head arcs associated with the moisture readings."

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Moisture Meters: Looking Like the New “Must-Have” Tool, *continued from page 10*

Prior to our use of meters at The River Club, greens were monitored by checking morning dew patterns and physically examining core samples by feel to determine dry locations. Hand watering took place in those locations, but the amount varied based on an individual's judgment. Now, using the moisture meters, our daily routine during those summer months has changed. Each morning we send out two employees, one to the front nine and one to the back nine, equipped with a hose and a moisture meter. They walk a three-pace by three-pace grid pattern across each green's surface, taking a moisture reading at each point, resulting in 30 to 40 readings per green. Water is then applied by hand watering the low-reading areas.

A second check with the meter after watering confirms whether or not a sufficient quantity of water has been applied. The whole process takes about ten minutes per green, and we are getting a more complete evaluation of the entire green's surface. Because the set-up is more thorough, we have seen an overall reduction in problem areas. Although not completely eliminating wilt, we are at least delaying it until later in the afternoon. We continue to wilt watch daily, but the task is handled easily by two people instead of three or four.

Due to a change in our irrigation supply last fall, management strategies on our TifSport tees and fairways have also changed. This

summer we will introduce the use of moisture meters on those areas as well.

As water conservation continues to be an issue, I believe moisture meters will continue to grow in popularity among superintendents. As an industry we strive to find ways to pinpoint our irrigation distribution, not only on greens, but course-wide in an effort to lower overall irrigation use. As water conservation becomes more and more important, moisture meters will ultimately prove to be a must-have tool for all golf courses.

Credit: *Through the Green*. Publication of the Georgia GCSA.

Too Busy to Get Things Done

By Bob LaChance. Chapter Administrator Greater Cincinnati GCSA

If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. The more things you do, the more you can do.” How many times have you heard this and wondered why it is true. Especially when things in your own life seem to be spiraling out of control. What do these busy people do that we somehow overlook?

The first thing a busy person who gets things done is know how to say “no.” Especially if they know they have no intention of getting involved in something. The sooner you say “no” the more time you have.

The second thing these people do is write tasks down, sometimes with a due date. Later, they prioritize the list and do the easy

things immediately.

Then comes one of the most important steps, delegate. If you think you need to do everything yourself, your in trouble.

Lastly, realize you aren't going to get everything done, so review your list periodically so things don't slip through the cracks.

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