

The GREEN Breeze



Official Publication of the Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents Association

June 2013

Volume 65

Number 2

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Mark Your Calendar

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

Announcements

Upcoming Event



From the President

This month I am going to use this column as my “bully pulpit.” I want to remind everyone that membership in our chapter and participation in our meetings and events is a privilege not a right. It is your responsibility to represent yourself and our association in a professional manner at all times when attending one of our functions. There are many long time superintendents among our ranks who have worked long and hard to see our profession elevated to the place of respect that we currently enjoy. Thank you to all who went before us and elevated our standing in the golf community. The days of working in a “barn” and visions of *Caddyshack* are, for the most part, behind us now. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those who forged the way to where we are today.



2013 Board President
Ron Freking

If we are to continue to enjoy the benefits of having a top level club host our meeting then we must all be respectful of the fact that the superintendent of that club will be held responsible for our actions. Personally, I very much enjoy the opportunities to play golf at some of the best courses and private clubs in our area, and I do not want to see that diminished in any way. Put yourself in the host superintendent’s shoes and then make sure to conduct yourself in an appropriate manner.

Okay, I will get off my high horse now. In closing I would like to admonish the weatherman and request that Mother Nature move the rain cycle from the weekends to early in the week. Tuesday would be preferable as it would have the least impact on revenue at my course. To date I have ran my irrigation exactly zero times so far this year, but I don’t think I can save enough on the electric bill to make up for the lost greens/cart fees. We can all work long hours planning and budgeting, but we are still at the mercy of the weather—try convincing the bean counters of that one. Hopefully, the sun returns to full time work and all our cash registers will sing in praise!

I would like to encourage all of you to support our scholarship and research meeting in any way you can. That could range from something as small as donating a sleeve of balls to be used as a door prize, being a hole sponsor, entering a foursome or anything in between. The board will attempt to contact all of our members, but if for some reason you do not receive a call feel free to bring an item to be used for a door prize or contact one of the board members about sponsorship opportunities.

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 Friday, June 7, 2013. You can prepay by credit card or at the event.
- Registration will begin at 9:00 AM. Box lunch / on course beverages
- Four Man Scramble
- 10 AM Shotgun Start
- 4:30 PM Dinner & Awards following golf

***This month’s meeting is the
Fifteenth Annual
Research & Scholarship Tournament***



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Our Meeting at Wyoming Golf Club in April



Host Facility for June: Blue Ash Golf Course

Daniel Walter is our host for the Fifteen Annual Research & Scholarship Tournament this month. Dan is originally from Cleveland area and began working at Briarwood Golf Club in 1985. He graduated in 1987 from OSU-ATI with an Associate's Degree in Turfgrass Management. From 1989-1992 he was Assistant Superintendent at Moundbuilders Country Club in Newark, Ohio. From 1989-1992, Dan started working as Assistant Superintendent at the City of Blue Ash in 1992. He became Superintendent in 1995. Dan has served as a Past President of the Greater Cincinnati GCSA and the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation.

Dan enjoys spending time with family and friends at OSU sporting events, visiting parents in Pinehurst, North Carolina, and enjoying a round of golf as time permits!

Assistant Superintendent is Scott Kincaid. Scott began his career at Cincinnati Country Club and graduated from Rutgers University. He was Assistant Superintendent at Deer Run Country Club prior to joining Blue Ash in 1996 and has held the assistants position ever since.

Blue Ash has three full time staff members along with several part-time staff. Without all these individuals, Dan states, "we would not be successful; each person plays a key role in our success." Staff Dan would like to mention are: Mark Meyer, mechanic; Greg Tenkman, course foreman; and Chris Detweiler, course foreman. Key staff members are Janet Maley, Tim Lung, Joe Dapkins, Dorine Frank, and a host of part-time staff who are invaluable to the courses success. The clubhouse is managed by Barb Griffin and the Golf Professional is Anthony Andrews. The Director of Parks and Recreation is Chuck Funk.

Blue Ash opened in 1979 and was designed by the late Jack Kidwell and Michael Hurdzan. The golf course is extremely tight with homes surrounding much of the golf course. With less than twenty acres of fairways, it's extremely tight and challenging. Charlie Engster was the first superintendent and began the grow-in and construction. The course has undergone a renovation of four greens in the year 2000 and most recently the installation of a new irrigation system. Cart paths were completed in 2011 and 2012. A new clubhouse/event center opened in 2012 to host numerous weddings, banquets, outings etc.

Ongoing projects include bunker upgrades and improvements to fairway drainage.

Former staff now employed at other courses: Charlie Engster, Superintendent, Dearborn Country Club; Michael Stoecklin, Assistant Superintendent at the Links at Rising Star; Josh Bryant, Hamilton County Park District; Alex Benoit, Hamilton County Park District; and Andy Custis, Assistant Superintendent at Four Bridges Country Club.

Statistics for Blue Ash Golf Course	
Average number of rounds/year	34,000
Course/Slope Rating	132
Acreage under maintenance	125
Green size	5,500 square feet
Putting green goal	9 and consistency



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Change Is a Certainty

By Bob Brame, Director, North-Central Region

Despite growing up on a golf course, it didn't take long for me to walk away from the idea that playing on the PGA Tour would be a doable career. A much better fit came with working in golf course maintenance, so off to Purdue University I went.

After nearly two decades of working as a golf course superintendent, a change was in order when I followed a suggestion from Dave Oatis that working as a USGA agronomist might be a good fit. For that change in 1990 I will always be grateful.

Working for the USGA Green Section has been the highlight of my career, and yet, change marches on as I retire at the end of May. Change is a certainty in life and there is no better group to guide the changes that are inevitable with golf course maintenance than the Green Section staff. I know because

Working for the usga Green Section has been the highlight of my career, and yet, change marches on as I retire at the end of May.

I've seen it from both sides for more than thirty-five years.

Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) has been named the new director of the North-Central Region working with Senior Agronomist Bob Vavrek (rvavrek@usga.org). Keith and Bob are experienced veterans with a sincere desire to serve.

Credit: www.usga.org

Fairway Fooler

By Bob Vavrek, Senior Agronomist, North-Central Region

A topic of discussion at a recent Turf Advisory Service visit was the poor midsummer performance of fairway turf...not all the turf, but just the grainy, lime green patches scattered throughout the playing surfaces.

From the vantage point of a golf cart, I was confident I knew the answer. Light green + looks great during spring/fall + patches + summer decline = *Poa trivialis*. It wasn't until the superintendent mentioned the patches being exceptionally susceptible to dollar spot

that I finally put my nose down into the grass with a hand lens for a closer look and found a surprise.

These patches were creeping bentgrass that had segregated into discrete colonies over the years at this very old, classic course. How quickly a smug smile can turn into a sheepish grin. Yet, my embarrassment serves a purpose to remind us all to never jump to conclusions regarding turf problems.

Credit: www.usga.org

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Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Notes

By Brian Laurent, Executive Director, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation

I am writing this article in the midst of Ohio Turfgrass Week. Turfgrass Week was designated by the state of Ohio to recognize the tremendous impact that our community has on the economy, environment, and quality of life in the Buckeye state.

As part of our celebration, we are kicking off our second annual Bucks for Turf auction. Visitors to the auction home page are welcomed with facts about the benefits of turf and information about the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation. Last year, this auction reached people in nearly all-50 states and in more than 26 countries from all over the world. This auction is a great way for us to not only raise money to support our mission, but it is also a great opportunity for us to spread our message.

Speaking of Bucks for Turf, there is still time to donate rounds at your facility to the auction! The auction will run through the end of June and items can be added at any time.

As mentioned during our recent visit with the chapter at Wyoming Golf Club, the Foundation started the year with significantly less resources than in years past and the

Bucks for Turf auction will make a tremendous impact on our ability to provide for research and education in 2013. To donate an item to the auction, visit www.bucksforturf.org or simply email me at brian@ohioturf.org.

Field Day will have a different look this year with less stops, but more information, and also opportunities to demo equipment.

Also during Turfgrass Week, members of the OTF Board of Trustees and some of our Legislative Committee members participated in Turfgrass Day at the Capitol. In conjunction with other industry groups, this was an opportunity for us to meet with our state's lawmakers to discuss the issues of importance to our industry.

Currently, there are active discussions pertaining to phosphorus and synthetic pesticide use. Additionally, we are speaking about the importance of the budgets which would impact Ohio State.

Cuts to the university would have a significantly negative effect on the Extension ser-

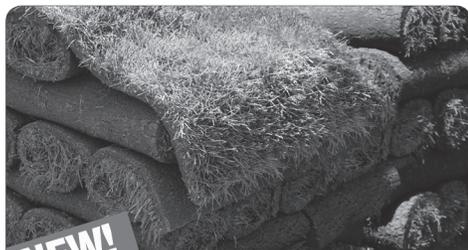
vices provided to our industry and research cuts would also impact work being done at OARDC and even at the OTF Research & Education Facility. Be sure that your voice is heard, speak with your elected officials about the importance of the tools that you utilize at your facility and the impact that the university's resources have within our industry.

Finally, the Board of Trustees, Committees, and I have been working hard on the remaining events for this summer. Field Day will have a different look this year with less stops, but more information, and also opportunities to demo equipment.

The golf outing at Moraine in Dayton is sure to be a huge success! The conference and show is shaping up nicely as well with several exhibitors already committed to returning, many of the best presenters being secured to speak and yet another high-profile keynote speaker secured to inspire event attendees. Stay tuned!

As always, thanks for your continued support!

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Great Lakes Regional Roundup

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

Well now that we are receiving some warm weather the grass is finally growing and everyone is busy just trying to stay up with the mowing.

This is a busy time at GCSAA as well. On April 16th National Golf Day was celebrated at the nation's capital. You were represented by GCSAA through the government relations committee and the Board of Directors.

This was a day where our members were able to meet with Senators and Representatives and discuss how the decisions they make affect golf course superintendents. All of our allied partners were also in attendance and talking with legislators about issues that affect their part of the business.

I will be attending a golf summit in Michigan later this month and golf day in Ohio was May 29th.

There is a lot going on in the legislative world. We are working closely with our lobbyists on immigration reform and the fix for NPDES.

In Ohio I have been working with RISE on some of our northern counties. As you may recall, Cuyahoga County banned the use of

all pesticides on county owned property and they are encouraging neighboring counties and cities to join with them in this ban. This will eventually be spreading to the Cincinnati area and when it does you need to get involved and make sure these government entities have the correct information in

As you may recall, Cuyahoga County banned the use of all pesticides on county owned property and they are encouraging neighboring counties and cities to join with them in this ban. and cities to join with them is this ban. This will eventually be spreading to the Cincinnati area ...

which to make the decisions. If this happens in your area please call or email me and I will get GCSAA and RISE involved to make sure the correct information is presented.

GCSAA is close in hiring the next field staff representative. This person will cover the mid-Atlantic territory, and we are currently receiving resumes for the South East Region. We hope to have all of the regions staffed by the end of 2013. We are also working on the

planning of the conference and show for 2014 in Orlando. The show schedule will be slightly different and should make for an enjoyable time for all. Please mark your calendars for February and plan on attending.

Just a reminder, the Rounds For Research will be holding its first auction of the year starting June 6th and going through 16th, the second will be August 1st through the 11th.

Please inform your golfers and encourage them to bid, there are some great golf courses up for auction.

If you are interested in making a donation from your golf course, please let your board of directors know or you can contact me and I will help you with the donation. Remember 80% of the money raised by your donation comes back to your chapter. This is a great way to support local research and your chapter. I would also like to thank all of those who have already donated.

I hope everyone has a great summer; I look forward to seeing you soon!

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New Fungicides for The Turfgrass Market In 2013

By Dr. Paul Koch, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility

A few years back I had a conversation with a golf course superintendent where he lamented the lack of new fungicides coming to the turfgrass (i.e. golf) market. His frustration was along the lines that there were new herbicides coming to the market, new insecticides, even new wetting agents, and plant growth regulators; but when it came to fungicides, the primary protectant applied to golf course turfgrass, all that was coming was pre-mixtures of old active ingredients.

This lack of new fungicides wasn't due to any decision by the primary fungicide companies or any lack of investment in research and development. Rather, a myriad of factors inhibited new development including natural ebbs and flows in new fungicidal molecules, increased regulatory requirements and cost associated with bringing a fungicide to market, and the pressure to make sure that a new fungicide will bring a novel addition to the fungicide industry and hence produce the hundreds of millions of dollars needed to recoup the costs of developing the fungicide.

For those left wanting for something new, something exciting, some new toys to play

with... well the recent past, present, and near future will provide you with that expanded toy box. For others, however, the large influx of new products in the past couple years and the several products just hitting the market right now have led to confusion, consternation, and skepticism. For some this rather

One important disclaimer:
the following descriptions are not an endorsement of any product or company, but simply reflect our research results with mostly new active ingredients ...

guarded view is the result of living through previous hype machines ("I just can't keep Imprelis on my shelves!" said one sales representative to me in the spring of 2011), for others it's more the belief that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and the comfort in their current fungicide programs.

In this article I will try and satisfy both those groups, not with a hype machine or shiny pamphlets, but through research completed here at the University of Wisconsin in the past couple years. One important disclaimer: the following descriptions are not

an endorsement of any product or company, but simply reflect our research results with mostly new active ingredients (not new pre-mixtures... a few exceptions). All the primary companies that we test with were contacted for any new fungicides they may be bringing to the market soon, and the following products are the ones those companies responded with.

The T-DMI's

Alright, so many of these products aren't terribly new, but it seems another one or two comes to the market every couple of years or so. While in the same chemical class as earlier demethylation inhibitors (DMIs) such as propiconazole and triadimefon, this new group that includes triticonazole (Trinity® or Triton FLO®), tebuconazole (Torque®), and metconazole (Tourney®) also has some distinct characteristics. First and second, they generally are quite affordable and have lower growth regulatory characteristics compared to earlier DMIs. Most importantly, they are generally more effective at managing anthracnose and snow molds than earlier

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New Fungicides for the Turfgrass Market in 2013, continued from page 7

DMIs. Unfortunately, they are also generally less effective at managing dollar spot than earlier DMIs, namely propiconazole.

Plant Defense Stimulators

While reports of natural plant defense stimulation has been around since the introduction of Chipco Signature and other related fungicides, the mechanisms behind this stimulation has been difficult to determine. However, the introduction of Daconil Action® (chlorothalonil + acibenzolar-Smethyl) and Civitas® (mineral oil) in recent years that have more well-defined plant defense stimulation mechanisms has led to increased attention to this potential disease management strategy.

The benefits are obvious, stimulating natural plant defenses can lead to reductions in the amount of fungicide introduced into the environment while maintaining acceptable levels of disease suppression. However, the reality is more complex. We have seen effective management of several diseases using Daconil Action® in our research trials with repeated Daconil Action® applications, but have heard some disappointing reports from the field if the product is not used repeatedly as part of a program. Civitas®, while giving

excellent green color, has performed poorly as a fungicide on its own when applied to manage snow mold and should be used as part of a mixture of different active ingredients.

Syngenta Has Been Busy

You have likely been hearing a lot from your friendly Syngenta sales representative in the past few months, and for good reason. Syngenta has brought three new fungicides to the golf turf market this year. Secure® (fluazinam) has been around in the agriculture world for many years, but is just now making its way into the turf market and has the potential to become a key component of many fungicide programs for years to come.

The main benefit of this product is that it's a contact, multi-site mode of action fungicide that has performed well against a broad range of pathogens. If this sounds similar to chlorothalonil, that's because it is, and it has the potential to replace chlorothalonil in many applications and lessen the concern about reaching the annual chlorothalonil maximums.

Appear® (potassium phosphite) can basically be thought of as Syngenta's response to

Chipco Signature, and is designed to be used in a similar manner. Namely, that it will provide some fungicidal activity against certain diseases (i.e. *pythium*) but that it's primarily intended to be used repeatedly as part of a program on putting greens to reduce summer stresses. Briskway® (difenoconazole+ azoxystrobin) contains a new DMI fungicide (along with the active ingredient in Heritage®), and can be used against a broad range of turfgrass pathogens. But the primary advancement with difenoconazole is the near absence of growth regulation, which allows its use even in stressful summer conditions.

This product will likely be more popular in the transition zone, the mid-Atlantic, and the northeast, but may become popular around the Midwest if summers like 2012 become more consistent.

BASF's Irons in the Fire

BASF is also bringing some new fungicides to the golf turf market in the near future. Encartis® is a fungicide pre-mixture that combines boscalid (Emerald®) with chlorothalonil, expanding the spectrum of disease control beyond the dollar spot that Emerald' alone could manage. To my knowledge, this

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product has not yet been registered by the EPA for use on turfgrass, but registration is expected soon. BASF also has plans to bring a new fungicide molecule from the SDHI (succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor) class to the golf turf market. This fungicide, called fluxapyroxad (Xzemplar®), is similar to Emerald® in some respects but will control a broader range of fungal diseases. Xzemplar is not currently registered for use on turfgrass, but registration is expected late in 2013 with a possible launch in 2014.

Bayer, Cleary, and Quali-pro Aren't Resting Either

Though not releasing a new fungicide this year, Bayer recently started a new "Healthy Turf, Healthy Tomorrow" initiative. This initiative will focus on plant-health related research through significant donations to the Environmental Institute for Golf. Bayer was one of the original plant defense innovators with the release of their Stress-Gard® formulation in Chipco Signature® in the 1990's, which has since been included in many of their other recent fungicide releases including Tartan®, Triton FLO®, and Interface®. Cleary Chemical was recently

acquired by NuFarm, which brings Cleary's broad fungicide portfolio into concert with the large herbicide and insecticide business that NuFarm already has. Cleary is working on several new fungicides that should be coming to market in the coming years that will likely expand on the successful launch of Torque® a couple years ago.

One or two of these products may become mainstays in your fungicide program for years to come, while others may struggle to find a niche and replace older, effective products.

Quali-pro has also recently introduced a new fungicide, Enclave®, to the turfgrass market. While this is a pre-mixture of previous active ingredients (chlorothalonil, iprodione, tebuconazole, thiophanate-methyl), to my knowledge it is the first 4-way pre-mixture on the turfgrass market. With four active ingredients in one product, if you see any disease except for Pythium after applying this product you did something wrong. The race for a 5-way pre-mixture begins now.

How Does All This Affect Me?

The effect of these new fungicides will not likely be measured immediately. I highly recommend that superintendents be skeptical at first, applying one application here and there to see how it affects the turf and suppresses disease at their course. All of the products listed here have been tested in our 15W Fungicide Research Reports in the past few years (<http://www.tdl.wisc.edu/research.php>), and I urge you to peruse these reports yourself.

One or two of these products may become mainstays in your fungicide program for years to come, while others may struggle to find a niche and replace older, effective products. Which ones thrive and which ones fall by the wayside will depend on a number of factors including efficacy, price, technical support, and ease of use.

Credit: *The Grass Roots*. Publication of the Wisconsin GCSA. March/April 2013.

continued on page 10



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Data Collection and Recordkeeping

By Adam Bagwell, MPS, CGCS. Crane Creek Country Club. Boise, Idaho

I've always thought that superintendents are very good at knowing the science of their jobs, but aren't very good salespersons. The best salespersons (and we are lucky to have many of the best) in our industry do not sell; they help us achieve our goals. Why do we have such a hard time helping ourselves?

Most of our owners, GMs, and board members understand business. In their own jobs they know balance sheets, P&L statements, COGS, etc. They track data, and use leases and debt when appropriate. But most superintendents fail miserably at data collection and recordkeeping.

Not surprisingly, the best facets of our complex jobs reside outdoors. I don't know many supers who want to be chained to a desk unless it is forty below and snowing. However, when we plead for monetary support, new equipment, and increases in labor, we must ask ourselves "have we done the homework to help the people in charge achieve their goals?"

Recordkeeping at its simplest is merely writing down pertinent data on a consis-

tent basis. To sell club management on new equipment it is important to know what pieces you need. Telling an owner "it is old" does not work. He remembers spending big dollars a few years ago. Update service records to include every time a particular piece was in the shop. Track how much was spent on the yearly fixes, how much time

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was spent hauling it off the course, and how much downtime was caused. Assign labor dollars for the fix, what the book value is, what the equipment is currently worth, and "old" becomes a dollar/cents reality where a superintendent can prove that a piece of equipment can be "old" in four years. Keeping records on a whole fleet can prove longevity is expensive in repairs, maintenance, and course quality.

The same recordkeeping can apply to an irrigation system or a maintenance facility. Crane Creek spends \$15K a year pulling equipment in and out of buildings that are not efficiently designed. Over thirty years

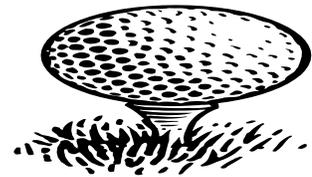
that equals \$450K, or a pretty nice building at the turf science facility! (Unfortunately, I don't see a new building in the near future.)

I don't mean to imply that records make a sale immediately. Recordkeeping and being well-informed does make you appear more professional, and smart (good-looking, too).

There might be something to the old adage, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." Sometimes you just have to package the right numbers, the correct way to make the "sale," achieve club goals, and achieve your goals.

Tracking dollars makes sense.

Credit: *Grass Clippings*. Publication of the Idaho GCSA. April 2013.



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