

# The GREEN Breeze



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## Mark your Calendars

|                                   |                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Belterra                          | "On the Road Meeting"             | July 15     |
| Miami View Country Club           | Superintendents' Championship     | August 4    |
| OTF Research & Education Facility | 2014 Turfgrass Research Field Day | August 6    |
| Terrace Park C C                  | Super/Pro Outing                  | October 6   |
| GCSAA Education and Show          | San Antonio, Texas                | Feb 23 - 26 |
| Annual Meeting                    | TBA                               |             |

## Announcements

### Upcoming Event



## From the President

Well I hope this edition of the *Green Breeze* finds you and your family doing well and enjoying the summer weather. I want to start by saying thank you to all who participated in the Research and Scholarship Tournament at Western Hills Country Club. The weather turned out to be perfect and it was a great day to be out on a beautiful golf course. Thank you to our host Lynn Thompson and all of the staff at Western Hills CC; everything was first class, and I heard compliments the entire day. We couldn't do this event without our sponsors and participants, so thank you again to all of you for supporting our chapter.



2013 -2014 President  
Ron Frecking

Our scholarship winners were Bryan Miller, Michael Reisenberg, Alex Kincaid and Erika Guynan. Congratulations to all of you and good luck in your future endeavors. If your son or daughter applied for a scholarship but were not selected please encourage them to apply again next year. Each of the last two years we have received multiple applications and the selection process is very difficult. Most of these applications are extremely competitive and another year's worth of achievement and experience may be what your child needs to stand out next year.

I also want to thank all of you who brought items to be used as door prizes. I know you have to take time out of your day to get items from your pro shop and the board appreciates your efforts to enhance our tournament. It would be nice if we could have a door prize for every golfer and we have been getting closer to achieving this in recent years.

Our next meeting is "On the Road" at Belterra and you are welcome to bring guests. This is a great way to say thanks to a special crew member, foreman or your assistant. You can form your own foursome or we will pair you up at the golf course. Please register on the website as early as possible so we can plan accordingly, but you must pay at the Pro Shop. We will have a blind draw full handicap 2 man best ball and a separate individual scratch skin game.

continued on page 3

## Greater Cincinnati GCSA Happenings

### Meeting Information

- 10:30 Registration
- 11:00 Shotgun Start
- Cost \$45.00
- You must register online, but make payment at Pro Shop.
- Limit of 40 - 50 players
- Guests permitted
- If we exceed the number of players the priority list may need to go into effect.

Thank You to  
Mrs. Penney "Dammel" Murphy  
For her yearly donation.



**Presidents Note, continued from page 1**

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However if you do not stay to receive your winnings they will go toward next year's scholarship fund.

We will have an election this fall for two openings on the board of directors. If you

have ever thought of serving your chapter in this way I want to encourage you to run. If you would like to nominate someone who would be interested in serving on the board you may do so by contacting any of the pres-

ent board members. This is a great way to get involved in your association and gain some invaluable experience.

Hope to see you at Belterra.

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**2014 Research & Scholarship Tournament Sponsors**

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**Western Hills Country Club**

*Thanks to Our Sponsors*

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Bactericide

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Southern Irrigation Services

Wehrkamp Enterprises

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*The Crew of Western Hills Country Club*

# Our Host Facility for July: Belterra

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Designed by master golf architect Tom Fazio, this 18-hole course was named one of the top five new upscale public courses by *Golf Digest* in 2002. The course meanders around lakes and the fairways lined with over 2,200 trees. Test your drive and determination on the challenging bunkers and imposing water hazards amid the picturesque views of Indiana ridges, the Ohio River and Log Lick Creek. Players can take advantage of unlimited practice balls at the practice facility, which includes a full-length driving range, putting greens, chipping areas and practice bunkers.

Club Manager: Ty Robinett  
Golf Pro: Ty Robinett  
Superintendent: Blake Miller  
Architect: Tom Fazio Year Founded: 2000  
18 Holes / Par 71  
Slope: 136 Rating: 73.3  
Yardage: 7000

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## Valuable Lessons

*By Glen obear, Senior Student in Soil Science and Agronomy, University of Wisconsin -Madison*

Turf students have lined-up their summer internships and are certainly looking forward to getting out of the classroom and onto a golf maintenance crew. I will be working for the second year as an intern with Aron Hogden at University Ridge Golf Course. In preparation for this coming summer, I have been reflecting on a few valuable lessons that I learned last summer.

### The Importance of Course Setup

I had the chance to do just about every job on the golf course over the summer. I learned a valuable lesson in the ways of one particular job— course setup.

Course setup, at first glance, seems like a mindless and simple job. However, the duties that are encompassed by this job are vital to the aesthetics and playability of the golf course. The course setup job includes emptying the garbage cans on each hole, cleaning and then refilling the water jugs on the course, moving tee block markers, cleaning cart paths with a turbine blower, and a handful of other detailed tasks such as trimming the turf around yardage markers. None of these tasks are especially difficult, but each one is quite important. If the water jugs are improperly sterilized, customers could be exposed to harmful germs and bacteria. If the tee block markers are not moved daily, the underlying turf will die due to lack of sunlight. These details are what make the difference between a good golf course and an excellent one.

Throughout most of the summer, we had the same person work on course setup. The man who was given this responsibility was given full control and ownership over the task, which inspired him to be proud of his work and really manage himself. The best thing about this situation was that nobody ever had to worry about the course setup duties throughout the summer. Being able to forget about this simple but crucial handful of tasks was very helpful to the superintendent, and

it allowed him to focus on more pressing agronomic and managerial issues.

### Leadership

In my opinion, the most valuable aspect of my summer learning experience was developing leadership skills. Interestingly, I learned how to lead myself first. I began to be conscious of the decisions I was making and how they impacted the way others think about me as a worker. When other people see that you are a hard worker, they will be more apt to follow your lead and take your advice. When people have positive interactions with you, they walk away feeling good about themselves. Learning to manage myself was the first step to developing leadership skills this summer.

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After I had established myself as a hard worker, I was given the opportunity to lead others. I ran a four-man crew and was given eight hours to aerify, fertilize, and topdress six greens in our practice facility. I learned, first of all, that it is more challenging than it looks to lead others through a long, hard project. More importantly, I learned that I can do it.

Midway through the summer, I started making “practice schedules.” I would write up daily schedules including all 25 crewmembers and their morning task, and then compare it with the assistant’s schedule. He would give me advice and explanations for our different ideas, and I would get to ask questions about his choices. Towards the end of the summer, I was given the opportunity to write real morning schedules on

the board. It was very rewarding, watching my plan go into action successfully on those mornings that I scheduled. Writing these schedules is challenging for two reasons; you need to have a strong grasp on all of the daily maintenance needs of the golf course, but you also have to know the skill set and abilities of each and every crewmember in order to effectively assign tasks.

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*As Robert Duvall says in the movie Lonesome Dove, “If you want only one thing too much, it’s likely to turn out a disappointment. The only healthy way to live, as I see it, is to learn to like all the little everyday things.”*

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The most valuable leadership concept that I took away from the summer comes from a book titled, “*The One Minute Manager*.” In the book, a simple but powerful quote reads, “Happy people produce good results.”

### Final Perspectives

Despite this being my fourth season in golf course maintenance, I feel like I learned more than I have in any past summer. I feel much more confident about my skills and decision-making abilities, and I feel much more prepared to apply for a leadership position at a golf facility.

I also learned a really valuable lesson last summer, and that is that it does not matter what specific job you are doing at any given moment. As Robert Duvall says in the movie *Lonesome Dove*, “If you want only one thing too much, it’s likely to turn out a disappointment. The only healthy way to live, as I see it, is to learn to like all the little everyday things.”

Credit: *The Grass Roots*. Publication of the Wisconsin GCSA. March/April 2010

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# Great Lakes Regional Roundup

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

I hope that the improvement in the weather has helped everyone recover from the winter turf damage. In writing this letter I wanted to focus a little on the GCSAA Ambassador Program that I mentioned in the last article. The program is up and running and we have been recruiting volunteer superintendents to match with our state congressional leaders, we hope to have one superintendent with every member of congress. When we intro-

duced the program we had an out pouring of support from our members and in just the short time we have talked about it we have over 25% of the slots filled. That being said there are 435 representatives and 100 senators so we still have a ways to go. I am including the list for Ohio below and if you live in a district where no one has signed up and would like to get involved, please send me an email and [jmiller@gcsaa.org](mailto:jmiller@gcsaa.org) or go to the GCSAA

website [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) to sign up. With all of the new regulations we are beginning to see it is extremely important that the correct information gets to our legislators so that they can make informed decisions. If you live in Kentucky or Indiana and would like to get involved let me know as I have those lists also. Thanks in advance for your help. The list and those who have signed up so far is as follows:

|       |         |       |                 |              |              |       |                 |                      |
|-------|---------|-------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-----------------|----------------------|
|       |         | OH-01 | Steve Chabot    | Cincinnati   | Zachary Wike | OH-10 |                 |                      |
| Brian | Kessler | OH-02 | Brad Wenstrup   | Cincinnati   |              | OH-11 | Marcia L. Fudge | Warrensville Heights |
| Tyson | Cline   | OH-03 |                 |              | Tim Dunn     | OH-12 |                 |                      |
|       |         | OH-04 | Jim Jordan      | Lima         | Jerry Cox    | OH-13 |                 |                      |
| Dan   | Salois  | OH-05 |                 |              | Neil Noble   | OH-14 |                 |                      |
|       |         | OH-06 | Bill Johnson    | Marietta     |              | OH-15 | Steve Stivers   | Hilland              |
|       |         | OH-07 | Bob Gibbs       | Ashland      |              | OH-16 | James Renacci   | Wadsworth            |
|       |         | OH-08 | John A. Boehner | West Chester |              |       |                 |                      |
|       |         | OH-09 | Mary Kaptur     | Toledo       |              |       |                 |                      |

Keeping on the government relations topic, National Golf Day was held in May and this allowed the allied golf associations to make personal contact with legislators and policy makers and the topic the board of directors chose this year was WOTUS (Waters of the US). If you did not know, the federal EPA is trying to change the language in the Clean Water Act from "navigable waters of the US" to "waters of the US" which would give them jurisdiction over every body of water within the United States and depending on what project you would like to do or what product you might like to treat a pond with, you would need to get any needed permit from the federal EPA to complete your task. I will update you with any new news on this topic as it becomes available.

GCSAA is in the process of making a few

minor updates to the website. Please visit it and navigate through some of the pages and let me know what you think. The job board has been redone along with a few other tweaks. While you are there make sure to check out the regional pages and my blog for updated information. I have been very busy making the rounds to all of the 20 chapters in the Great Lakes Region and most superintendents are now into summer survival mode and some are already looking forward

to fall. If I can help you in any way, please contact me and I will be happy to help! See you all soon at an event.



## Double Duty

By Bob Vavrek, senior agronomist, North-Central Region

Recent rain, heat and high humidity have transformed roughs and fairways into hayfields. Mowing schedules have barely been able to keep pace with rapid turf growth and managing clippings has been challenging.

Most golf facilities use blowers to clear clippings, tree seeds and other debris from playing surfaces. Courses that own more than one turbine-type blower might try to use

two units in tandem to disperse wet, heavy accumulations of clippings more efficiently.

Two turbine blowers in tandem can move clumps of heavy, wet clippings much better than a single unit, especially when the output angle is adjusted to maximize debris dispersion

Try different angles on the output manifolds

of the front versus rear blower to maximize clipping dispersal. Also, be sure your utility vehicle has enough power to tow multiple blowers and try to avoid tight corners because reversing may not be an option.

Source: [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org) July 23 2014

# Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Notes: Stress

By Brian Laurent, Executive Director, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation



**H**ow do you handle stress? This time of year, it's pretty important to understand how you manage difficult situations.

As I've mentioned before, and as you're all aware... there is no shortage of reasons to be pulling your hair out this time of year! Whether it's dealing with disease pressure, drought, personnel or a greens committee, it can be overwhelming at times. That's why having a plan in place for not only dealing with stressed turf, but also for dealing with your own personal stress (and the situations that cause it) is so important.

Here are a few things that I've found helpful in dealing with stress:

1. **Have a routine** – Look no further than the game of golf on this one. The best players in the world have a pre-shot routine that they rely upon and that helps them find their “zone.” I've found that routines in the workplace help accomplish two primary objectives; they help eliminate emotion and put the emphasis on the process, both of which are pivotal in working through problems.
2. **Phone a friend** – You can never underestimate the importance of a strong support system. Whether it's a spouse, a friend or a colleague, having someone to talk to, to either vent or get your mind off of the situation is priceless!
3. **Schedule a breather** – Mark McCormack, the legendary founder of IMG and the father of sports marketing, used to schedule a nap during the workday. How someone with a busy schedule like his would be able to find the time for a nap is beyond me and I know that sleeping during the day is likely not realistic for you (as much as I wish it was, it's definitely not in the cards for me either!). What's important here is that you schedule some time each day to break away. Take lunch away from the course or spend a few minutes in your office researching your

hobby. Whatever you need to do, just make sure that you can focus on something else for a little bit each day.

4. **Rely upon your resources** – You have a wealth of resources at your disposal. Fellow Greater Cincinnati GCSA and/or OTF members, OSU turf team, sales representatives and the list goes on. No matter the problem, chances are that someone in your circle has experience dealing with similar situations. Don't hesitate to ask around for some help.

Stress is inevitable, but being prepared can help minimize your stress levels and can enhance your ability to work through the issues.

Field Day is on August 6th. I hope that we'll see you there as it's a wonderful opportunity to get away from the office, get updates from the turf team on products and practices for your facility and also a chance to talk to your peers about the season at hand.



## Turfgrass Research Field Day August 6th

Ground penetrating radar, impact of brushing on greens, pigments and dyes, fungicide updates, bermudagrass in the north and more!

Register at [www.ohioturfgrass.org](http://www.ohioturfgrass.org)