

# The GREEN Breeze



Official Publication of the Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents Association

June 2014

Volume 66

Number 3

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## Mark your Calendars

Western Hill Country Club	Scholarship & Research Tournament	June 2
Miami Valley GCSA Windy Knoll Golf Club	Field Day	June 21
Belterra	"On the Road Meeting"	June 15
Miami View Country Club	Superintendentship' Championship	August 4
OTF Research & Education Facility	2014 Turfgrass Research Field Day	August 6

## Announcements

### Upcoming Event



## From the President

Hello, I hope this issue of the *Green Breeze* finds you doing well and your golf season in full swing. Our next meeting is the Scholarship and Research tournament at Western Hills Country Club on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.



2013 - 2014 President  
Ron Frecking

I hope all of you will be able to participate in some way; this is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We would really like all of you to play golf, but if this is not possible please consider asking your club to be a tee sponsor (bronze level) for \$150, or we are always looking for smaller donations that can be used as door prizes. Golf balls, shirts or rounds of golf are always appreciated. You may be contacted by one of the board members asking for a donation. A lot of work and preparation goes into this event, and it promises to be a great day; we hope to see all of you there!

We have added another golf date to this year's calendar. We will be having an "On the Road" meeting at Belterra on July 15<sup>th</sup>, details will follow soon. Please save this date and make plans to attend, this is a great golf course and an easy drive for us. Also you have the option of visiting the casino and/or spending the night at their hotel.

Last month's meeting at Green Crest Golf Club was well attended with thirty-one in attendance. Thanks to our host Mitch Harter. Mike O'Connell and John Fanning did a great job with their presentation on the superintendent/sales representative relationship. I always love to listen to our long-time members discussing maintenance practices and sharing stories of their past experiences on the golf course. The 2 man best ball was won by John Miller and Chuck Barcroft and there were 6 good skins in the individual game.

I promised myself I would not write about the weather again in this issue, but I can't resist. I just finished mowing greens on May 17<sup>th</sup> and I wore jeans, a long sleeve shirt, a pullover, a windbreaker, carhart bibs and a corduroy coat...and I am still cold, it is 42 degrees! I have

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## Greater Cincinnati GCSA Happenings

### Meeting Information

- Format: Four Person Scramble
- 11:00 Registration
- Box Lunch/On-Course Beverages
- 12:00 Shotgun Start
- Dinner and Awards Following Golf
- Door Prizes, Longest Putt, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive
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## USGA Green Section. Vol. III, No.1

### *The Greens Keeper*

By EDGAR A. Guest

He's on the job at break of day and when the stars come out,  
There's always trouble on the course for him to fret about,  
He starts the gang to work at dawn and follows them around  
Then listens to committeemen whose wisdom is profound,  
They talk of "bents" and "fescues" in a way that makes him squirm  
For they acquire much knowledge in one brief official term.  
His task is one that calls for tact, for lacking that it means  
Next year there'll be another man brought on to keep the greens.

The members seldom know his name, or have a smile for him,  
They only wonder why it is the course is not in trim.  
They only rave and rage and rant while hunting for a ball  
And wonder why the greensman hasn't cut the rough this fall,

And when they find a cuppy lie or footprints in a trap  
"The course is in a rotten shape!" declares each gloomy chap.  
And yet my hat is off to him, now winter intervenes,  
I want to pay my tribute to the man who keeps the greens.

He's on the job from dawn to dusk, a million pests to fight,  
'Tis his to see that every green is watered well at night.  
The weeds attack his finest work, the drought destroys his grass,  
The rain beats down the tender shoots, but still the players pass  
And still they play the game they love, a happy golfing clan  
Who never stop to count the odds against a single man.  
And so I wave my hand to him, who toils in sturdy jeans,  
The best old friend all golfers have—the man who keeps the greens.

January 25, 1923

### Notice

If you have not been receiving your print copy of the *Green Breeze*, go to the website and change your preferences or send an email to lachance@zoomtown.com. You can stop receiving a print copy and save us money the same way..

# Our Host Facility for June: Western Hills Country Club

Our host for our Sixteenth Annual Research & Scholarship Tournament this year is Lynn Thompson. He is an agronomy degree from Ohio State University

He was superintendent at Worthington Hills Country Club in Columbus from 1980 - 1986, and at Western Hills Country Club ever since.

and improved in 2001 by Brian Huntley from North Canton, Ohio.

It is a short but challenging course that is heavily tree lined. There are sixty-eight bunkers. There has only been three superintendents in the one hundred and two year history of the club.



Lynn Thompson

Lynn has been married to Deborah for thirty-four years. They have three daughters: Elizabeth, age 32, lives in Colorado; Shilah, age 28 and Andrea, age 16, live in Cincinnati. They have two grandchildren with a third due in November.

Lynn's Assistants are Jamie Wullkotte twenty-eight years service, Andy Bales, eighteen years service, and Brad Piecuch, thirteen year service. Addition employees Lynn would like mentioned are Ken Ripberger

and Jim Hessel, mechanics; and Mike Westerdorf, Foreman.

and thirty-three years as a golf course superintendent.

Western Hills Country Club was designed in 1912 by Tom Bendelow. It was redesigned

Statistics for Western Hills Country Club	
Average Rounds	20,000
Course Slope	134
Acreage	126
Average Green Size	4,000
Putting Green Goals	Keep alive, 10, + or - 5

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# How to Make the Most of Chapter Meetings

By Brian Cloud, GCSAA Field Staff, South Central Regional Representative

Seems like an easy deal: sign up, show up, hang out, tee it up, and head home. But if that is your game plan for attending your local GCSAA-affiliated chapter event, you are really missing out on great opportunities to broaden your horizons. Think about it, a full day to interact with your peers in a relaxed atmosphere that typically includes a great educational program, a nice meal and an opportunity to experience golf at one of the finest facilities in your area. You can probably increase your value to your employer more in a single day than you can in months by making the most of your opportunity.

Following are a list of what to do, and what not to do to maximize your chapter meeting experience. The most common reasons chapter members say they don't attend meetings are cost, travel distance, and time away from the job. This article addresses some of these concerns and offers tips to reduce these hurdles, whether you are a superintendent, assistant, affiliate member or any other member who wants to attend meetings and make the most of your time, effort and money.

**Do:** Register early. Your board of directors and chapter executive work very hard to make sure all of the details for each meeting are organized and first-class. Knowing how many people are going to attend is always a mystery and makes arranging menus, room setup, and golf format a challenge. When you see a meeting announcement you know you want to attend, sign up early. Don't put that meeting announcement in a pile on your desk or in a folder in your email. If something comes up and you have to cancel your registration, it is no big deal. Just let chapter leaders know as soon as you can.

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*You can probably increase your value to your employer more in a single day than you can in months by making the most of your opportunity.*

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**Don't:** Wait until the last minute to cancel your registration. If something comes up and you have to cancel your registration, let chapter leaders know as soon as you can. A last-minute cancellation can really throw a wrench into best laid plans. If you have ever

had to rearrange a four-person handicapped scramble tournament at the last minute with four last-minute cancellations, two no-shows and three new players, you'll know exactly why this is important. It's the nature of the industry to have last-minute things come up, so sometimes it's impossible to avoid, but please be courteous to your chapter leaders who are working hard to make the events run smoothly.

**Do:** Support your organization. Part of your association's commitment to providing great education and member services depends on good meeting attendance. At most courses, the financial liability and risk for securing a meeting site are significant. Your attendance and registration fees help cover the costs of speakers, refreshments, and more. The better the attendance, the more easily your association can provide exceptional member services and programs. Many members find a way for at least one person from their operation to attend each event. Chapters benefit greatly when courses and companies adopt that goal.

*continued on page 7*

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## How to Make the Most of Chapter Meetings, *continued from page 4*

**Do:** Bring a guest to a meeting. Most chapter meetings have room for members to bring guests. That is a great opportunity to demonstrate the professional nature of your group and to show a general manager, golf professional, or club official how important it is to attend meetings. Meetings are also a great incentive or reward for assistants or crew members for a job well done. This can be a great way to do some team-building in a productive way. Don't forget non-members. Inviting them as guests is a great way to show them the benefits of belonging to the association and helping your chapter grow. Make sure to check with your chapter for their guest policy ahead of time.

**Do:** Invite a fellow member to a meeting. Pick up the phone, send a text or email, and invite a fellow member to a meeting. Think what it would mean to a new member to be personally invited to be a part of the group. And it doesn't have to be a newcomer; some members just get out of the habit of attending meetings and an invitation to attend may be just the nudge needed to get them back in the swing of things. Most members work within a few miles of several other courses or members, while some meetings could be more than 100 miles round trip, depending

on your location. Sharing a ride is a great way to reduce expenses and spend extra time with your local peers. For vendors, inviting customers (or potential customers) to meetings is a great way to show your appreciation for their business and build relationships. Inviting a member and offering to cover his or her entry fee is as good or better an investment of your company's money than taking someone to lunch or the ball-game, and it's a much more productive and industry-related method.

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*He was too good at what he did, too dedicated, too conscientious, to slip up so badly he should be fired. Sadly though, that standard is not always insurance enough these days. He knows good people can lose jobs to bad times.*

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**Do:** Prepare to be gone for the day. Anyone can always come up with a hundred reasons why they can't be away from the job for even a day. But the truth is most operations can survive just fine even with the superintendent gone, provided everyone is prepared.

Make sure the right people at your course know where you are going and exactly what is expected to be accomplished while you are gone. Plan for these days well in advance and things will go smoothly. You will only be a phone call away, and most issues can wait until you return the next day.

**Do:** Arrive early. Some of the best opportunities to meet people and network come before the actual agenda starts, when the crowd is smaller and people are relaxed. Usually, meetings are packed with activity, and it helps when everyone arrives a little early so everyone can get registered and the event can start on time. Make sure you have clear directions, especially in an area you are not familiar. And, if you haven't noticed, traffic is more unpredictable than Mother Nature, so plan ahead.

**Don't:** Skip the education and lunch. Most chapters offer members the option to participate in only the education and meeting portion. It is a great option if it is not possible to be away from the course all day or other commitments prevent you from playing golf into the afternoon. However, if you skip the education and only make the golf, you are

*continued on page 6*



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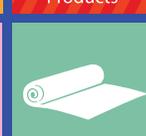
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## How to Make the Most of Chapter Meetings, *continued from page 5*

definitely missing the best opportunity to gain important knowledge from the program. If the education doesn't pertain to your current situation, it is very likely that it may someday.

**Do:** Meet new people. Just look around and you are sure to find someone new to introduce yourself to at a meeting. Most people gravitate to those they already know, but everyone benefits from meeting new members in this setting. Set a goal for each meeting to shake three to five new hands. It is always amusing to hear longtime members say they don't recognize all the new people. Well, there is an easy remedy for that. Golf tends to mix members up so you will always meet someone new or get to know others better. Make sure you take the time during your round to really get to know your playing partners.

**Don't:** Worry about your golf game. There are many really good golfers in golf course management. But the majority of members are just out for a good time and have a golf game that leaves a lot to be desired. Most members have a handicap closer to 18 than single digits. So, don't worry about your ability or how you stack up with the rest of

the group. Most golf formats take handicap into consideration, so you won't be at a disadvantage if breaking 90 for you is rarer than a Tiger Woods 3 putt. All members of all abilities are welcome and encouraged to participate in all golf events. Besides, if your score is high enough, you will probably get the ultimate compliment about your golf game — "You're working too hard."

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***Do: Meet new people. Just look around and you are sure to find someone new to introduce yourself to at a meeting. Set a goal for each meeting to shake three to five new hands. "***

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**Do:** Share with your peers. Please come to the meetings ready to share your troubles, your successes, and even your failures. Chapter members have always been supportive of each other, are always ready to share information, and are prepared to extend a helping hand. Nine times out of 10, you will find someone who has faced the same issues you are battling and is willing to share their experience. Participate in meetings by asking questions or providing insight. Chap-

ters have a priceless database of a massive amount of information that is very useful, if everyone is willing to participate by contributing.

**Don't:** Only talk about business. Believe it or not, there is more to life than the weather, growing grass, and golfers who are driving you crazy. Get to know some of your fellow members on a different level by talking about their families, hobbies, sports, or anything other than golf and growing grass. You'll find out that they are a pretty interesting bunch, and it helps to find common ground with your peers.

**Do:** Welcome affiliate members who participate. Affiliate members make up about half of most chapters' total membership and contribute very generously with their membership, participation at meetings, and sponsorships. Affiliates are a very valuable component to the success of chapters and deserve the right to participate. Just like superintendents, they have a job to do, and building relationships with their customers is a very important part of their jobs. So, don't be offended if an affiliate member introduces themselves and leaves you with a business card. Associations recognize the value of all

*continued on page 7*



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## How to Make the Most of Chapter Meetings, *continued from page 6*

of their members, and all members should share in that spirit.

**Don't:** Hesitate to pat the host superintendent on the back. Hosting a meeting is a very stressful endeavor, and superintendents should be praised for inviting their peers to inspect their work with a fine tooth comb. A thoughtful comment or compliment to the host can go a long way to relieve that stress. Not everyone works with the same budget or under the same circumstances, so it helps to let the host know that you recognize the job being done with the resources available.

**Do:** Enjoy yourself in a responsible manner. You are representing your place of employment, your association, and your profession when you are in public at chapter functions. Your reputation depends on the way you dress, your language, and above all, your actions. Superintendents are now considered a leading professional in the golf industry and should be aware of that when visiting host clubs. Don't you want the host club personnel and members to have a great impres-

sion of your group?

**Do:** Follow up. With email and text messaging, it couldn't take a whole minute to write a quick thank you to the host superintendent or a greeting to playing partners or someone new you met. If you have more time, pick up the phone or leave a message. Those kinds of efforts are really appreciated by the recipient and will help you build that all-important network that will benefit you and your career in the future.

**Do:** Let your supervisor know about the event. Make a habit of letting your supervisor know what type of education was presented, what you learned from playing the course, who you met, etc. He or she is probably the person writing the checks to pay for the meeting, so you want to make sure that person knows the facility is getting its money's worth and your attendance at future meetings is a value. It can be as simple as a quick conversation over a cup of coffee or a written report, depending on your situation. Keeping your supervisor informed will help

justify the costs associated with meeting attendance.

**Do:** Provide feedback to your chapter. Your chapter leaders are always working to make your meetings enjoyable and productive. In order to accomplish this, feedback from the membership is necessary and important. Take the time to let them know what you enjoyed or appreciated, and also let them know if you have any suggestions or constructive criticism about how the meetings can be made better.

Hopefully, these suggestions will give you a few things to think about when it comes to chapter meeting attendance. So, make plans today to attend an upcoming event and make the most of your experience.

Credit: *Grass Clippings*. Publication of the Idaho GCSA. April 2014.

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# Time Can Heal All Wounds

By Keith Happ, Director, North-Central Region

We continue to see turf recover from the severe winter damage experienced in many portions of the North-Central region. Areas of turf on greens, fairways, and tees once thought to be completely dead have recovered well enough that the use of plugs or sod is no longer being considered necessary.

Emerging bud leaves have developed into plants that can support play this season. This development has been supported with sound, foundational agronomic programs. Timely aeration, judicious fertilization, site specific seeding and controlling mechanical stress have contributed to successful recovery.

Weather continues to be the most important variable affecting turf recovery. We cannot control the weather, but turf managers can implement strategies to prepare for play when conditions become favorable.

Unfortunately, weather in the northern portion of the North-Central region has not been favorable and recovery has been slow. Conversely, in the central and southern portions of our region grass is growing and

course preparation strategies are in full swing.

It is just as important to manage golfer expectations this spring as it is to manage grass to get the course ready for play. Please don't hesitate to contact the North-Central offices for more information or help throughout the year.

Time heals all wounds and it takes time for grass to grow. Preparing grass for golf is a process and there are many variables that cannot be controlled, the most important of which is the weather. May 14, 2014.



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# 2014 Turfgrass Research Field Day: Wednesday, August 6, 2014

By Brian Laurent, Executive Director, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation

## When:

Wednesday, August 6, 2014  
Registration opens at 8:00 AM

**Where:** OTF Research & Education Facility  
2710 North Star Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43221

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation  
Info@ohioturf.org

Online Registration <https://otf.site-ym.com/events/register.aspx?id=442233&itemid=888d2343-a2b3-45f8-baff-2b235d4890aa>

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Non-Members = \$60    Fee includes lunch only if pre-registered)

## Schedule:

8:00-9:00 AM - Registration/Visit with our partners

9:00-9:15 AM - Opening Remarks

9:30 AM-12:00 PM - Research Plots

12:00-12:45 PM - Lunch/Visit with our partners

12:45-1:45 PM - Afternoon Seminar



## PLEASE NOTE:

Schedule is subject to change.

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# Balancing the Budget

By Wayne Kappauf, CGCS.. Golf Course Superintendent at Island Country Club. Naples , Florida

*Editor's Note: The stress of balancing the budget may be getting harder and harder, but it isn't new. This article first appeared in 2009.*

Balancing the budget is a concept that everyone in business uses and is expected to achieve. It simply means balancing revenues against expenses or not spending more than you bring in.

The United States government can't seem to do it, the state government can't do it, and neither can local government. Big corporations can't do it and many don't even try. For that matter most of the people in America can't do it in their own households.

Golf course superintendents, however, are expected to do it and most of us do. We do not do it by printing more money, taxing our members, and adding surcharges on greens fees. We do it by keeping in touch with what is going on around us, by making the most of what we have, and finding better ways.

When I was single I ate steak; when we had kids we ate hamburger; when the kids grew up I went back to steak; when the stock market crashed I went back to hamburger

(actually ground turkey).

We all have to adapt to our surroundings and situations. Superintendents are among the very best. We invent ways to do more with less. We create work schedules that allow us to be more productive. We research and find better products that give us the best bang for the buck.

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We find the best way to stretch a pound of nitrogen and a gallon of water. If we cannot afford to boom spray, then we spot spray and educate our clients about an occasional weed or two. Instead of cutting the entire flower budget, we make sure we take care of key areas and pay extra attention to detail and visual impact.

Superintendents know the game of golf and what it takes to produce memorable rounds

for their players. We know how to prioritize what comes first and what can wait until the budget crisis is over. We would love to have a perfect golf course, but the word "perfect" is more suited for a "perfect sunset" or the "Miami Dolphins' perfect season" than it is for a golf course. Superintendents get that and understand what they have to do to make their operations successful.

The next few years are going to be interesting. Balancing the budget will continue to be an issue. While we should all be confident that the economy will turn around, I think we would all agree that balancing the federal budget could take years.

Superintendents will not have that luxury of time. Our employers expect that budget balanced every year. We will have to come up with even more ideas to do more with less. I think we will. I look forward to eating steak again soon but for now hamburger helper sounds pretty good.

Credit: *The Florida Green*. Publication of the Florida GCSA. Spring 2009.

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## Presidents Note, continued from page 1

talked with a couple of our members who have some bermudagrass tees or even fairways and they have either winterkill issues or at best the grass is several weeks behind schedule. I have a friend in the Louisville area, and he is seeing no signs of life in his bermudagrass fairways and says it is the

same for everyone in that area with bermuda fairways. I am counting myself fortunate as I have three bermuda tees and they are all doing pretty good with only a small amount of winterkill. Our zoysia fairways are mostly unaffected by the winter, but they are producing seedheads like I have never

seen before. They appear “black” from all the seedheads until we mow them and cut the seeds off. Growing turf in the transition zone—it’s more than just a job!

## USGA Experts Explain: Frequency for Changing Hole Locations

The frequency for changing hole locations is dependent on golfer traffic, turf growth and labor availability. For daily play, the purpose for changing the hole is primarily to distribute traffic over the entire putting surface to prevent wear damage.

During times of heavy play, changing the hole daily is likely a necessity to prevent excessive turf wear from concentrated foot traffic and spike marks and to maintain the integrity of the hole, as hole edges can easily become worn and/or damaged by players if they are careless in removing their ball from the hole or replacing the flagstick.

Occasionally, hole locations may be changed twice a day if play is extremely heavy, especially on public golf courses. When play is light, golf facilities may choose to change the

holes daily, not out of traffic concerns, but to keep the course more interesting for players fortunate enough to play every day.

Superintendents at heavily played courses must also consider the impact of hole locations on the pace of play. Ideally, the easier hole locations are saved for days on which the course is heavily used to help players get the flagstick in the hole and move on to the next tee more quickly.

Since there are a limited number of easy locations, this means there will be days on which the holes are “tucked in” to some more difficult spots. This balancing of hole locations is particularly challenging on small, heavily contoured greens.

As a general rule, most golf course superin-

tendents prefer daily hole changing, but not all courses have enough labor to accomplish this task every day unless it is absolutely necessary to prevent damage to the green.

In reality, many golf facilities reach a compromise, with new holes cut following a day of heavy play, while using the same hole location for consecutive days when play is slow. While it may be possible to not change holes for several days when play is minimal, the interval between hole changes should not be so long that lateral turfgrass growth effectively shrinks the diameter of the hole.

Credit: USGA. “Our Experts Explain.”  
Posted 11/8/2013

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