

The GREEN Breeze



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From the President

With the golf season winding down it is a good time to reflect on what went right and what went wrong this past season. For myself, the weather was the most agreeable I've seen in my 20 years in the business. The downside, which probably rings true for most of us, is that my expectations are unrealistic.

Along the same lines have you ever reflected on how you have or haven't served your industry? More superintendent's in the Greater Cincinnati Chapter need to think about service to the association. Dan Walters just finished his second term as president of our association and has served on the OTF Board as well. When I speak of service, he is a great example. I will lean heavily on his experience as he continues to serve as past president and chair of the scholarship tournament committee. Thank you Dan.

For anyone who attended the meeting at Terrace Park you got to see firsthand how dedicated Sean Walters is to serving his profession. His tireless efforts to put together our initial Hall of



Tony Dierkers
President, GCGCSA

Fame class, and the hours of research behind this project, are the kind of service I'd like to see more of our leaders put into the association. Thanks to Sean for what he has already accomplished and what he continues to do for the association. Sean's service over the past 3 years has been nothing less than stellar.

We welcome 2 members of the association who will be serving for the 1st time on the Board. They have made the commitment to serve their industry. Jeff Reich, superintendent from TPC and Greg Nickerson, assistant from Hyde Park Country Club. We look forward to their fresh perspective and spark on the Board this year. (continued on page 3)

Mark your Calendar!

Registration for the Fall Education Meeting is now available online.

Please visit the Calendar tab at www.gcgcsa.org to register today!

Greater Cincinnati GCSA Happenings

Fall Education Meeting NOVEMBER 9, 2015

Registration is at 8:30am and the cost is \$10

Cincinnati Country Club

2348 Grandin Rd

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Fall Education Meeting



Our host for the Fall Education Meeting is Mark Beiting of Cincinnati Country Club

The 2015 Fall Education Meeting will be held on November 9th. The speakers are listed below:



Steve McDonald

Title: Pigments and Pigmented fungicides: Differences, Cautions and Best Application Strategies
Outline: Talk will discuss plant protection using stand alone pigment as well as pigmented fungicides and the best way to use these materials for the management of biotic and abiotic issues within fine turfgrass landscape

Brandon Horvath

Title: Plant Health from A to Z
Outline: What is Plant health and how fungicides and Plant Growth Regulators impact it

Mike Agnew

Title: Agronomic Programs: Managing Plant Stress and Disease Management
Outline: How to use new fungicide Chemistries effectively in Agronomic programs

Dr. Gregg Munshaw

Turf Extension Specialist at University of Kentucky



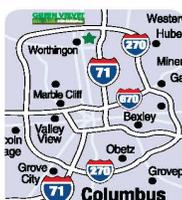
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Presidents Note continued...

Have you ever thought of serving the association? You should. If every superintendent would commit to serving on the board for 1 three year stint we would never have any difficulty filling Board positions. Don't wait till next fall to think about it, make that commitment now!

Lastly, but most importantly, it is difficult whenever you lose a member of your family. The sudden passing of Terry Fry was a shock to all of us. It was just a short time ago that we lost Denny Warner. Personally, Terry was one of the 1st superintendent's I met when I came to the Cincinnati area and he was always there if I needed to bounce some ideas off someone. He will be missed by everyone. Terry is one of the reasons you need to go to your association meetings. He had an

immense wealth of knowledge about golf course maintenance and the local nuances, not to mention he could tell a story.

Terry and Denny should serve as a reminder to all of us of the importance of living in the moment. Make their service to our industry, and their sudden withdraw from our lives, something you reflect on daily over the next year. Print a picture of both of them and put it on your desk. Take that reflection and channel it into a positive influence on both your personal and professional lives in 2016.



Defending Against Patch Disease

If you haven't already done so, there is still time to treat with a fungicide this fall to protect against patch diseases.

The adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" has successfully been applied to many facets of life. The same can be true with regard to turfgrass diseases. With that in mind, many golf courses in the Central Region have already begun preventative fungicide applications for controlling *Rhizoctonia solani*, the causal agent of large patch disease, and *Gaeumannomyces graminis f.sp. avenae*, which causes take-all patch. Large patch

was prevalent throughout the transition zone for much of 2015. Extended periods of cool, wet weather in May and June were highly conducive for disease development. Large patch damage was observed not only on zoysiagrass but also bermudagrass. Poorly draining and/or shaded areas consistently had greater damage.

A fundamental component to limiting large patch on warm-season turfgrass is a well-timed (continued on page 4)



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(continued from page 3)... fungicide application during the infection period. Large patch symptoms take time to manifest, so scheduling typically is based upon prior experience and monitoring soil temperature. Treatment is typically initiated during September or October when soil temperatures fall between 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit at a 2-inch depth. A follow-up application three to four weeks later in the fall may be warranted for swards with a history of loss. Treatments in the spring when plants are just coming out of dormancy also can be effective.

There are a variety of fungicide options available for controlling large patch including:

- Strobilurin (e.g., azoxystrobin, fluoxastrobin, trifloxystrobin, etc.)
- SDHI (e.g., flutolanil, penthiopyrad, fluxapyroxad)
- DMI (e.g., myclobutanil, propiconazole, tebuconazole, etc.)

For best results, apply a fungicide using a carrier volume of at least 2 gallons per 1,000 square feet to improve fungicide penetration through the thatch layer. Similar to large patch, take-all patch is active during the fall and spring when soil temperatures range between 55-65 degrees Fahrenheit. Newly established – i.e., less

than 10 year-old – creeping bentgrass putting greens with alkaline soil pH – i.e., pH greater than 7.5 – are prone to infection. In many instances, disease is not a major concern as plants with a deep and healthy root system are able to tolerate some infection. However, it would be prudent for those managing newer creeping bentgrass putting greens built with calcareous sands to apply a fungicide if they have a compromised root system. A follow-up application in the spring also may be necessary.

Chemical control options for take-all patch include the aforementioned strobilurin and DMI classes as well as thiophante-methyl. A higher spray volume of 2-4 gallons per 1,000 square feet combined with venting can improve results. Remember, take-all patch is caused by a root-infecting pathogen, so getting the fungicide to the fungus is crucial.

In addition to chemical control, acidifying nitrogen sources like ammonium sulfate should be used going forward. Regular applications of manganese also can help limit the severity of take all patch.

Credit: John Daniels, USGA. September 2015.

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Why Wouldn't We?

Court order places nationwide hold on Clean Water Rule



A federal court ruled today that President Obama's regulation to protect small waterways from pollution cannot be enforced nationwide.

In a 2-1 ruling, the Cincinnati-based Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit delivered a stinging defeat to Obama's most ambitious effort to keep streams and wetlands clean, saying it looks likely that the rule, dubbed "waters of the United States," is illegal, according to a story in The Hill.

"We conclude that petitioners have demonstrated a substantial possibility of success on the merits of their claims," the judges wrote in their decision, explaining that the Environmental Protection Agency's new guidelines for determining whether water is subject to federal control — based mostly on the water's distance and connection to larger water bodies — is "at odds" with a key Supreme Court ruling.

The judges said they have yet to decide whether

they have jurisdiction to review the regulation, but a stay would make it easier to determine that.

"A stay allows for a more deliberate determination whether this exercise of executive power, enabled by Congress and explicated by the Supreme Court, is proper under the dictates of federal law," the court said.

"A stay temporarily silences the whirlwind of confusion that springs from uncertainty about the requirements of the new Rule and whether they will survive legal testing. A stay honors the policy of cooperative federalism that informs the Clean Water Act and must attend the shared responsibility for safeguarding the nation's waters."

The decision expands a stay that a North Dakota judge imposed in August, the day before the rule took effect, and that only applied to 13 states.

(continued on page 7)

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(continued from page 5)... The National Federation of Independent Business, one of the groups that sued to stop the rule, cheered Friday's decision. "Small businesses everywhere this morning are breathing a sigh of relief," Karen Harned, executive director of the group's legal foundation, said in a statement.

"The court very properly acknowledged that the WOTUS rule has created a 'whirlwind of confusion' and that blocking its implementation in every state is the practicable way to resolve the deep legal question of whether it can withstand constitutional muster."

Waters of the United States has become one of the most controversial environmental regulations under Obama.

Republicans, nearly 30 states and a wide range of business interests say that it is a major overreach of federal power, putting

the EPA in charge of nearly every square inch of private and state land.

The EPA and the Army Corps, which enforce the rule together, said it was necessary to clarify the federal government's authority and ensure protection of small waterways that are connected to bigger ones, as called for under the Clean Water Act.

The Friday decision means those small waterways will, for the time being, go without Clean Water Act authority.

The stay is not the final word on the regulation, since the court still needs to go through the process of making a full ruling on it. After that, it can be appealed up to the Supreme Court.

GCSAA will continue to monitor the situation.

Credit: Howard Richmond, Golf Course Management. October 2015.

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