OHIO TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

TURFNEWS

The Official Publication of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation | **Spring/Summer 2019**

RATTLESNAKE RIDGE GOLF CLUB

Host of the September 30 OTF Golf Outing

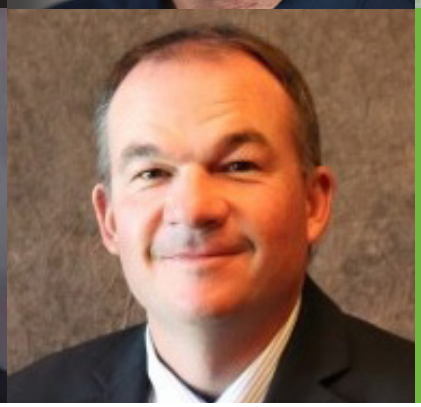
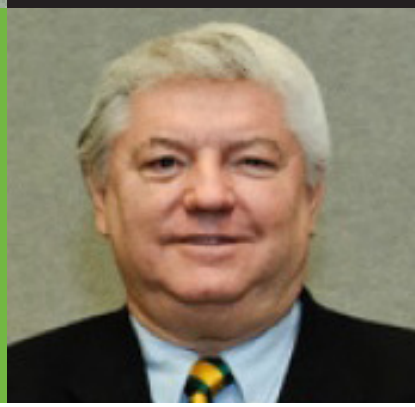
MEET THE TEAM.




OTF
OHIO TURFGRASS FOUNDATION



2019

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President's Message

Darrin Batisky

Hello – I hope this finds everyone well. As I sit it looks like we are in the middle of a "normal" spring. No real weather extremes. This is good for the industry and good for our souls. The other day someone told me "mother nature owed us this spring", I agree!

As I reflect on my time with OTF I am humbled and honored to serve as the president of an organization that has impacted my life in so many different ways. When I was a student the Conference & Show was unparalleled in the educational opportunities (it still is!) that allowed me to learn from so many different industry professionals as they shared on all aspects of their lives. Also while attending Conference & Show I have been able to build/maintain a network with so many different people along the way. I have met some of my very best industry and personal friends through OTF. The education and networking allowed me to build a skill set to work 23 years on golf course with the last 16 as a golf course superintendent. When I look back I have attended every show since 1991, I believe that was the last year it was in Cincinnati. As a professional OTF has allowed me to learn and stay on top of important industry trends all while networking with folks to be a successful professional on the vendor side of the turf grass industry.

With the change in the management team, we at the Board level are in the process of setting up OTF to run as a data driven organization. What I mean by this is to set up key measurables (i.e. conference & show data, membership stats, financial profit/loss statements etc.) to enable us to make better decisions. The focus is on how we can run as efficient as possible while continuing to give a great experience for all of our members. We have and will continue to sift through the information left from Brian Laurent as we create these matrixes. We can partly thank Dr. Karl Danneberger for this because as a young student he exposed me to: Data = Knowledge = Power. The Power is to make better decisions. All of our worlds are run on data so this is nothing revolutionary but it is much needed to be the best we can be moving forward. We are also mindful that OTF still be an organization that has a personal touch with all of our members. We want to be your go to for networking and education as we all our here to support OSU and turf research. As volunteer I am here because have an emotional attachment to OSU/OTF. I believe its purpose is twofold: service to our membership while supporting OSU. Keep this in mind when you consider your business strategies. Whether you're a member seeking professional development or a vendor looking to market your products and services, we want to be an organization you choose to help you be successful. Ultimately Ohio State and turf research are the ones that benefit from your choosing to support OTF.

In closing, I want to personally thank all the folks that have supporting OTF over the years. OTF exists because of three reasons: first, volunteers choose to put in the time to help run it; second, because our vendor partners choose to be part of OTF and financially support those efforts; and third, that our members see value in attending and supporting our events. Please reach out to me or any Board member and/or staff if anyone of us can help you. OTF is only successful from the support of all of us in the turf grass community!

Go Bucks!

Executive Director's Message

Mark Bennett

As the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's (OTF) new Executive Director, we at Bennett Association Management are thrilled to have OTF as our newest client. Our team comprised of Lori Landry (Event Director), Linda Ganger (Member Services and Development Manager) and Sharon Erichsen (Membership Services Coordinator) have enjoyed learning more about the day-to-day operations of OTF. We are committed to offering the membership great service, enhancing your experience as a member and strengthening the organization.

Trustees, OTF is in good hands. You are fortunate to have passionate, competent volunteers leading your organization. We as a staff have already started a laundry list of items we want implemented to enhance your experience with OTF.

What is one way to help your company this year? Signing up your employees for the BEST (Buckeyes for Environmentally Sustainable Turfgrass Management) Program. This program is the region's premier turfgrass management training and certificate program, designed to streamline your onboarding or continued learning process. Developed by industry experts and backed by The Ohio State University, the online course equips your business with the tools and information to be sustainable — meeting the growing demands of the consumer market.

Participants in BEST will receive a start-to-finish course on turfgrass management, complete with nine modules and quizzes to test retention and knowledge following each section. By participating in the program, you will demonstrate to your customers your commitment to safety, responsible turf management, disease and insect control and water quality. You can learn more about BEST by visiting the BEST link on the menu of the OTF website at OhioTurfgrass.org.

I like the quote from Charles Darwin in which he said, "It is not the strongest of species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change". OTF will continue to be a strong organization, grounded in its mission, vision and values and committed to change to better serve the needs of you, the member.

We hope you to see you at an OTF event this summer. In the meantime, feel free to contact me at 614-285-4683 ext. 1 or mark@bennett-management-llc.com.

Making the Grade:

The Importance of Surface Drainage on Athletic Fields

Pamela Sherratt, Turfgrass Specialist, Horticulture & Crop Science, OSU

Take some time over winter & early spring to walk fields and identify areas with standing water or poor surface levels. Do the same with skinned areas on baseball and softball fields. Take pictures and keep records of where those areas are and set priorities as to which areas get renovated first. This pro-active approach is the first step to making sure your fields are “resilient”.

Resiliency is a word I’ve heard a lot recently in regard to climate change and how we must be prepared for adverse weather conditions. Climatologists are predicting that dry areas of the country will get drier and wet areas will get wetter. They are also predicting that USDA Hardiness Zone maps will move NW as temperatures increase and we’ll be dealing with plants and pests previously only seen in more southern states. In central Ohio, we have certainly seen an increase in the intensity and frequency or rain, leading to floods and saturated soils. Given that we typically get excessive rainfall in spring and fall in the northern states already, we can surmise that wet conditions are going to continue, and probably get worse. Rain events that happened every fifty years may just well be something we witness each year and we should start planning now on what that means for our industry and how we can create playing surfaces that can handle big rainfall events. The answer to that of course is drainage, which must be our focus moving forward.

The most important factor in providing athletes with a durable field that drains is surface grade or slope. In essence, fields that are not graded, or have low spots, will hold water. So while there are many cultural ways to improve field drainage, like aeration, topdressing or drain-pipe installation, I’m going to primarily focus on surface grade because that’s what ultimately dictates where the water goes.

In regard to baseball and softball skins, skinned infields should be re-graded annually if possible (or every 1-3 years) and this should be a standard line item in the maintenance budget. Annual skinned infield laser grading is a cost effective way to prevent lips from developing and fill low spots around the position areas. This is also a great time to add new material and/or amendments. Engineered infield mixes, like DuraEdge, are developed with budget and level of maintenance in mind and they can really make a difference to infield moisture levels, and consequently playability. There are engineered for specific situations, like MLB, Parks & Rec. and/or NCAA ballfields. In relation to grade, the goal is to maintain a 0.5 % slope from the pitcher’s mound to the outfield. Any less of a slope and the surface water won’t move, any more of a slope and the water will take infield material with it and dump it into the edges, causing lip problems. A 1% slope from the back edge of the infield skin to the outfield fence is standard.

Even with great surface grades, a heavy rain prior to a game can cause issues on skinned areas, so here are some extra tips: before each game, fill in low spots - use infield mix that matches the existing soil mix, add 20% soil conditioner to it, and tamp it down to make sure it’s firm and not going to move. Prior to rain, if you have tarps, cover the pitcher’s mound and home plate.

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If puddles do form, remove the water with cups, sponges, soaker pillows or pumps. It is also possible to create a siphon with a hose pipe.

Lightly rake the wet area to create ridges in the soil. This increases the surface area and allows it to dry out faster. If you use a drying agent to soak up moisture, keep in mind that drying agents are typically finer graded than soil conditioners and should be removed from the infield after they have done their job. Never brush water off the infield, over-work the soil mix, rake too much, or ever use cat litter or corn cobs as drying agents.

In regard to natural grass athletic fields, drainage can be improved by maximizing surface drainage (run-off) via a laser graded crown. A crowned field means that the grade of the surface slopes from the center down to all four sides of the field, allowing water to run off the playing surface. The average crown on an athletic field ranges from 1% to 2%, depending on which sport is being played, with soccer & hockey generally requiring a lower crown height. Many professional regulations do not specify or prefer a crown on soccer fields, but those guidelines are typically based on sand-engineered fields, not native soil. The National Federation of State High School Associations recommends a slope of ¼ inch per foot from the center of the field to each sideline for football fields and a minimum of 1 to 1.5% percent slope on native soil soccer fields. On soccer fields with underground drainage, they recommend the slope should be no less than 1% slope. Under no circumstances should a native soil field be flat.

In conjunction with a graded crown, interceptor drains are used to capture surface runoff that occurs due to the slope of the field. Interceptor drains are placed in areas that receive the most runoff, and as far outside of the field of play as possible to limit potential injuries. Interceptor drains give the surface water a place to go, rather than just sitting on the perimeter of the field.

In summary, skinned infields should ideally be re-graded annually and native soil fields should have a crown or slope that moves water from the surface to an interceptor drain. Properly graded playing surfaces are the cornerstone of ensuring that fields can shed water and host games.

Dominion Middle School prepping for no canceled games.

Dominion Middle School Baseball Coach Hightower with softball & baseball players renovate the field before a game. The infield was re-graded a couple of years ago. They bought a tarp online for $500 that almost covers the infield, and they drag and rake to keep the surface even. This should all contribute to a successful season with no canceled games.

The **most important factor** in providing athletes with a durable field that drains is surface grade or slope.

Meet **Amy Wilber**

Horticulture & Crop Science, The Ohio State University

"Once a Buckeye, always a Buckeye."

Internship/Work History
I grew up on a sod farm in Delmar, Maryland which exposed me to the turfgrass industry. I worked on the farm in various capacities, from mowing acres of greens height bentgrass to creating sales orders and processing payments in the office. After my first year at Ohio State I interned at Shoal Creek Golf Club on the course maintenance team. I was able to learn about all the aspects of maintaining a golf course in the southeastern United States. Following my second year at Ohio State I interned on the groundstaff at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, home of The Championships, Wimbledon. I was able to learn how to maintain grass tennis and croquet courts while adapting to a new culture and country. In the fall of 2017, I worked at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research Facility maintaining research plots. In the spring of 2018, I helped plan the first Turfgrass Summer Camp to introduce middle school students to the STEM principles in turfgrass management.

Favorite class and why?
I really enjoyed Turf Diseases and Integrated Turf Health Management. I was able to learn about the most common diseases of cool season turfgrasses through reading, lectures, and site visits. In the class we did multiple site visits to see problem areas in all settings: home lawns, golf courses, sports fields, and turf farms. I learned the diagnostic process that can be applied to identifying and disease or pest problem. Through working on a large disease management project, I worked on budgeting and public speaking skills. The small class size made it very easy to travel to multiple sites and get lots of hands on experience in the field and in the lab.

Do you have a mentor? What have they taught you?
Pam Sherratt is one of my mentors, she is one of the main reasons I chose to attend Ohio State. As a male-dominated industry it can sometimes be intimidating to females to enter but having her as my role model made my entry into the industry easier. She was always available to talk to about any topic. She also played an important role in securing my internship at The AELTC. Dr. Karl Danneberger has also been a great mentor in my journey towards graduate school. He has guided me through the process of visiting, applying, and eventually deciding on the next step of my educational journey. He has explained what graduate school will be like and possible career options after I complete graduate school. Both of my mentors have shaped my educational experience and have been influential in my future plans.

What's your next step?
After graduation, I will be moving to Starkville, Mississippi to begin a graduate assistantship at Mississippi State University. I'll be working towards my master's degree in weed science, studying turfgrass weeds.

What are your career ambitions?
After completing internships in golf and sports turf maintenance, I have realized that I do not want to work in those fields day to day. I still have a passion for turfgrass and what to still work within the industry. I am not sure exactly what I want to do in the future, but I definitely want to stay in the industry.

Will you stay connected to Ohio?
I will definitely stay connected to Ohio. I have made so many friends and connections over the past 3 years. Once a Buckeye, always a Buckeye. I will never forget my educational foundation that was built at Ohio State and those in the industry that I met along the way.

Medina Sod Farms
Re-Brands as Medina Turf Farms

Most of you know us as Medina Sod Farms. Our family farm was founded in 1965 by Cliff Gregoire. For nearly 50 years, the farm successfully provided quality turfgrass to homeowners, landscapers and municipalities throughout Ohio and surrounding states. Cliff's eldest son, Scott, held the position of farm Manager for decades and in 2008 purchased the family farm. In 2018, Scott made the decision to retire. He extends a sincere thank you to each of you for your continued patronage over the years.

In January of this year, Cliff's youngest son, Ryan, purchased the business and has re-branded as Medina Turf Farms. Ryan was born and raised on the farm and started operating farm equipment at the age of 7. It was his love of turf that lead him to start his athletic field construction company in 1989. Ryan has been married to his wife Kelly for 23 years and they have 3 boys that will be learning the ropes of the farm and its deeply rooted tradition of supplying quality turfgrass.

Along with updates to the business name and ownership, our active office will now be located in Seville, Ohio. We are very excited about the opportunity to serve you and look forward to hearing from you this spring!

SAME RICH HISTORY. **SAME QUALITY TURFGRASS.** **BRAND NEW NAME.**

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Postemergence Grassy Weed Control Strategies

A year in Review – the disaster (for many) that was grassy weed control in 2018

Dave Gardner, The Ohio State University

2018 was a particularly difficult one for turfgrass managers who traditionally have problems with warm season weeds such as crabgrass *(Digitaria)*. At the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research and Education Center our crabgrass research area was completely overrun by crabgrass, regardless of product used or application timing that was tested. Many observed that preemergence herbicides that are traditionally very reliable did not provide control that we have seen historically. Additionally, postemergence herbicides were less effective last year because crabgrass continued to germinate later into the season and the new seedlings replaced any plants that were controlled. All too often, control would last for a couple of weeks before the grassy weeds filled back in.

Our grassy weed control issues of 2018 could be attributed to the weather patterns we observed. April was the coolest of the last 25 years in Columbus, with an average monthly temperature of 47.7 degrees. By comparison, this is cooler than the months of March 2012 and March 2016. Because of this unusually cool weather to start the season, cool season turfgrasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, did not have favorable conditions in which to begin growing. On May 1 the high temperature in Columbus was 81 degrees. What then followed was the warmest May on record. The average temperature was 71.5 degrees, 9.1 degrees above normal. To put another way, the month of June has been cooler than what we observed in the month of May 2018 five times since the turn of the century.

In a typical year cool season turfgrass has the months of April and May to break from winter dormancy and begin growing. The denser the turf, the fewer problems we tend to have with annual weeds such as crabgrass because dense turf shades the soil so weed seeds are not as likely to germinate. Denser turf is also more competitive with crabgrass seedlings. Crabgrass typically germinates in April but does not really begin growing aggressively until the second week of June. In 2018 we had less than ideal conditions for cool season turfgrass growth in April followed immediately by conditions that were more favorable to crabgrass and other warm season grasses. Additionally, precipitation for the year 2018 set an annual record in Columbus.

Because of the extended warm and wet conditions, preemergence herbicides that would normally provide near season long control likely began to break down before crabgrass stopped germinating in middle or even late July. This combined with the less than competitive cool season grasses at the start of May and an extended season favoring warm season grass germination and growth resulted in the crabgrass problems we saw in late summer.

Looking forward to 2019 – Pre- and Postemergence Grassy Weed Control Strategies

Hopefully you mapped out your problem crabgrass areas last fall and applied a quality preemergence herbicide this spring. Of the many preemergence herbicides, products that contain pendimethalin, prodiamine or dithiopyr continue to be the most often recommended due to their duration and efficacy.

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Another option to perhaps consider is an application of a product that combines a preemergence herbicide and a postemergence herbicide, such as Cavalcade PQ. This product has both prodiamine for preemergence control and quinclorac for postemergence control. If this product is applied during the month of May, good control of any germinated crabgrass is achieved with the quinclorac and the prodiamine is applied late enough that there is a better chance of getting season long control. Similarly, sulfentrazone + prodiamine (Echelon) and dithiopyr also have early postemergence activity and therefore can also be applied into the first or second week of May (when there is usually 1-2 leaf crabgrass) and this later timing will increase the likelihood of season long control. I recognize that this timing does not fit well with many lawn care company business models. However, just looking at the agronomics, the later application times have shown to be much more likely to provide season long control.

In addition to the use of preemergence herbicides, something that continues to get better for turfgrass managers are options for postemergence control of grassy weeds. That said, many of the herbicides for postemergence grassy weed control work particularly well on certain species and not as well as an alternative herbicide on others. Thus the ability to identify the weedy grass you are trying to control is paramount. There are structures you can use on the plant to identify it, such as the ligule and auricle. For certain grasses these can be very reliable. For example, quackgrass has a large clasping auricle, orchardgrass has a large prominent ligule. Barnyardgrass has no ligule. For many grasses that lack large, obvious structures it can be much more complicated to try to identify them. But, if available, the seed head is the most reliable structure with which to identify a grassy weed (Figure 1). I often advise people that, if in doubt, try to find an area that's not visible to the client and let a few plants mature and produce a seed head so that you can verify its identity. The figure includes a picture of the seedhead of some of our most common grassy weeds as well as recommendations for postemergence herbicides to use.

Crabgrass produces a seed head with individual flowers on 3 or 4 branches that all attach to the same point. Crabgrass can be controlled postemergence with fenoxaprop, quinclorac, mesotrione or topramezone. Our research has found that a mix of ½ label rate of topramezone and ½ label rate of quinclorac is very effective. The issue of when to apply the herbicide for postemergence control is complicated and somewhat dependent on product used. For example, fenoxaprop tends to be very effective on leaf stage crabgrass but its control of tillering crabgrass is variable. I have seen applications of fenoxaprop to 5-tiller crabgrass that were very effective and others where it barely injured the crabgrass. The conventional wisdom is that fenoxaprop is most effective on leaf-stage or early tillering crabgrass. Quinclorac is effective on leaf stage crabgrass and also late stage (>5 tiller) crabgrass but can be frustratingly inconsistent when crabgrass is between 2 and 5 tillers (roughly June 10 to July 10 in central Ohio). Topramezone seems the most flexible when it comes to the stage of crabgrass at application. That said, and this applies to whichever herbicide you use, if you make a postemergence application before weed seed has stopped germinating, in most cases you will get a few weeks of suppression followed by a new population of crabgrass from seed. For this reason, lasting control of crabgrass tends to occur with applications made after July 1.

Goosegrass looks somewhat like crabgrass from a distance but it tends to distinctly radiate from where it roots and the leaf sheaths are bleached out. For this reason it is sometimes also called silver crabgrass. When it flowers, it looks sort of like a crabgrass inflorescence. However, instead of individual flowers, they are in clusters. Barnyardgrass has a more coarse appearance and a seedhead that has branching along the flower stem, rather than all originating at one point like crabgrass and goosegrass. Goosegrass, barnyardgrass and yellow foxtail, with its unique seed head, all are most effectively controlled with either topramezone or fenoxaprop.

In many cases the perennial grasses are more difficult to control. Quackgrass and orchardgrass are best controlled with a non-selective herbicide. Sometimes repeat applications are required. Nimblewill, like weedy bermudagrass, are warm season grasses that form patches of bleached out turf in cool season turf during the winter months. These two species can be easily identified when the flower – nimblewill has a single spike while bermudagrass (not pictured) has a seedhead similar to crabgrass that is 3 spikes that radiate from the end of the flower stem. With either species, control is usually best achieved with repeat applications of a non-selective herbicide. Also, there is some evidence of potential selective control with repeat applications of either mesotrione or topramezone, though this may not be as consistent or reliable of a control strategy. There is one perennial species, field paspalum, for which there is a good selective control option. It can be controlled postemergence with one or two applications of topramezone. Topramezone, like mesotrione, bleaches the tissue of the target weed, which may make the weed more visible for a period after herbicide application.

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This is the reason that some managers will mix mesotrione or topramezone with another herbicide such as quinclorac or triclopyr in order to mute the bleaching effect.

While this article covers some of the more frequently encountered grassy weed species, it is certainly not all inclusive. Again, the importance of proper identification of the weed species should be stressed. In the past few years I have recommended to several individuals to use topramezone to control what they reported to be field paspalum, only to later discover that it was another species such as johnsongrass. Johnsongrass is not as commonly observed in turfgrass. But, when present, it is more effectively controlled with fenoxaprop.

Even in a good weather year, proper identification of the target species is important to ensure that the most effective herbicide is selected for control. IN most years, timely applications of an appropriate herbicide can usually yield good results. Hopefully, the weather patterns of 2018 will, of course, not be observed in 2019.

Figure 1. Field identification of common grassy weeds using the inflorescence (seed head). The recommended active ingredients for best control are also listed. Unless noted, apply to actively growing weeds at maximum label rate and follow label as to the addition of a non-ionic surfactant.

SUMMER ANNUAL GRASSY WEEDS

Crabgrass – *Digitaria*
(½ rate topremazone + ½ rate quinclorac), quinclorac, mesotrione, fenoxaprop

Goosegrass – *Eleusine indica*
topramezone or fenoxaprop

Barnyardgrass – *Echinochloa crusgalli*
topramezone or fenoxaprop

Yellow Foxtail – *Setaria pumila*
topramezone or fenoxaprop

PERENNIAL GRASSY WEEDS

Quackgrass – *Elytrigia repens*
Non-selective

Orchardgrass – *Dactylis glomerata*
Non-selective

Nimblewill – *Muhlenbergia shreberi*
Glyphosate, topramezone or mesotrione

Field Paspalum – *Paspalum leave*
topramezone

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Ohio State News

Nationwide Foundation Approves $7M Grant

in support of Ohio State partnership to support facilities, programming in College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Building on 50 years of partnership with The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), the Nationwide Foundation is contributing $7 million to support the college's vision of a modern land-grant institution with a mission to sustain life.

"The Nationwide Foundation is proud to make this contribution to Ohio State and see our collaborative efforts around food production, security and sustainability take a giant leap forward," said Nationwide Foundation President Chad Jester. "Together, we share a long-term vision with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences that assures the land-grant mission of sustaining life remains strong for generations to come."

The Nationwide Foundation gift supports initiatives in translating research and making it accessible, strategic collaboration, workforce development and new facilities. This new gift brings total contributions to $11.8 million for the CFAES collaborative over the past several years.

"We are grateful for the Nationwide Foundation's steadfast support of Ohio State and its land-grant mission," President Michael V. Drake said. "This generous gift will enable our faculty and students to continue addressing critical challenges for years to come – benefiting communities across Ohio and around the world."

The largest part of the gift, $5 million, supports constructing new facilities and infrastructure at Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory, a key asset on the Columbus campus and essential to our comprehensive university. At Waterman, CFAES operates a unique hub for teaching, research and extension. Last year alone, more than 100 active research projects, and more than 200 outreach programs in the areas of turf science, dairy management and research, entomology, ecological engineering, agricultural systems management, sustainable agriculture, food science, medicine and behavioral science, agronomic and horticultural production practices took place at Waterman Lab. Waterman is also home to a multitude of college-credit courses encompassing everything from bee-keeping to biogeography. Nationwide Foundation's lead gift will support CFAES' goal to engage every undergraduate student in some aspect of the Waterman experience dedicated to food security, production, or sustainability during his or her time at Ohio State.

The plan for Waterman includes a Controlled Environment Food Production Research Complex with a state-of-the-art greenhouse production system. In addition, there will be a new multi-species animal learning center, the Kunz-Brundige Franklin County Extension Building, which is currently being built, and a modernization of the dairy facility.

With the remaining $2 million, the Nationwide Foundation is contributing to programming initiatives focused on the land grant mission, including translating research to ensure its accessibility and utility, broadening lifelong learning opportunities to strengthen the workforce and strengthening leadership programming for CFAES students. These initiatives include combining an integrated team of researchers, data scientists and communicators to manage a robust digital knowledge exchange to respond to public needs and highlight relevant research and data; as well as coordinated development of emerging talent, leaders and workforce through educational, training and certification programs, with innovative research through the college and programming that emphasizes career exploration and college preparation through Ohio 4-H.

"Our college works every day to sustain life, and to be successful we need partners who share our vision, appreciate its complexity and the long-term investment it requires," said CFAES Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean Cathann A. Kress. "Nationwide's value on doing together what cannot be done alone, both supports our interdisciplinary work and challenges us to keep seeking other collaborators. We are deeply fortunate to have partners like Nationwide and the Nationwide Foundation committed to advancing and sustaining life across Ohio and beyond."

The Nationwide Foundation

The Nationwide Foundation is a nonprofit, private foundation to which Nationwide companies are the donors. Founded in 1959, the Nationwide Foundation has contributed more than $467.3 million since 2000 to help nonprofit organizations in communities where Nationwide associates and their families live and work.

Turf Tips for 2019

2019 Turf Season is Here

Todd E. Hicks and Joe Rimelspach, Department of Plant Pathology, OSU

Well, the 2019 turf season is here. Everyone is out making applications, mowing, fertilizing and getting their turf in shape for whatever this year's weather brings us. I hate to bring up bad memories but looking back at what we went through in 2018, 2 items really stand out in my mind. I believe it was Benjamin Franklin that said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" or maybe it was Joe Rimelspach, I believe they went to school together? Anyway, hopefully everyone learned a very painful lesson last year. If you did not spray preventatively, at the right time, at the right rate, with the proper volume and nozzles, you ended up spraying more than normal and you never got back ahead of the disease. Spraying preventatively means you are fighting the fight on your terms. We cannot control Mother Nature, but we can take steps to make sure whatever disease shows up we have already prepped and protected our turf from it.

The second thing that sticks out from last year was the amount of leaf spot (mainly *Drechsler & Bipolaris spp.*) that was encountered and that it lasted all season long. This problem effects both short and high cut turf managers and is not prejudice as to what species of turfgrass it effects. High cut turf managers are better off here, although widely seen on high cut, the disease effects are usually not that significant. Low cut turf managers this can be a big problem for you, especially on creeping bentgrass greens.

2018 was probably the worst year for leaf spot disease I have seen in 20 years. We saw wide spread thinning of turf no matter where we were or what type of turf we were looking at. The problem is compounded by the fact with leaf spot likes both warm and cold weather patterns, it just needs wet weather. This disease is also a very good chameleon, its patterns seen on the turf can mimic other diseases quite well, such as anthracnose or pink snow mold / Microdochium patch. If in doubt when diagnosing your problem, always seek help. Whatever chemistry has been working for you in the past fighting leaf spot should be fine again this year. As a bonus, most of the products labeled for leaf spot are also labeled for dollar spot so making sure you are covered in the spring should not affect your spray schedule or add anything to what you are already doing.

Management suggestions:

1) Raise cutting height on lawns if mowing too short.
2) Mow frequently to avoid stressing turf.
3) Avoid excessive & deficiencies in nitrogen.
4) Soil test for possible nutrient deficiencies especially phosphorous.
5) Avoid frequent watering and wet turf.
6) Select more resistant cultivars to the disease. Check the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (ntep.org) for leaf spot data.
7) Fungicide applications. If possible, for best results apply preventatively if a history of leaf spot or make applications at the first sign of disease activity.

For more information about turfgrass disease management and how to submit samples - please visit at the OSU Turfgrass Pathology Program web site: turfdisease.osu.edu or contact us at – hicks.19@osu.edu or rimelspach.1@osu.edu.

Common leaf spot infecting Kentucky bluegrass.

Leaf spot causing decline of creeping bentgrass on a putting green.

Leaf spot spores on creeping bentgrass leaf.

Leaf spot on high cut turf.

Superintendents Can Now Apply for 2019 Syngenta Business Institute

Golf course superintendents can now apply online for the 2019 Syngenta Business InstituteSM (SBI). The popular professional development program was specifically designed to help superintendents obtain the skills needed to be exceptional industry leaders.

The program will be held Dec. 3-6, 2019, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Approximately 25 superintendents will be selected to attend from all those who apply on or before Aug. 13, 2019.

For more than a decade, Syngenta has partnered with the faculty at the nationally ranked Wake Forest University School of Business for the three-day program that focuses on key topics, such as financial management, navigating generational and cultural differences, leadership skills, effective communication and negotiation tactics.

“Superintendents work hard to make sure their turf is conditioned to perform at its best and recover quickly from stress,” said Stephanie Schwenke, turf market manager for Syngenta. “But we know the turf is not the only thing they are managing. Every day, they make important business decisions and are responsible for leading their teams. At Syngenta, we don’t want to just provide products that help them take care of their turf. We want to continue to offer opportunities like SBI, where they can learn skills that will help them grow professionally and improve their golf courses.”

Since its inception, more than 250 superintendents have graduated from SBI, and many recently attended a reunion event at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Over the years, they have continued to praise the program for its effectiveness and impact on their careers.

“I had an idea of what I thought I would get out of the Syngenta Business Institute and it was more – it exceeded my expectations,” said Robert Alonzi, superintendent at Fenway Golf Club, in Scarsdale, New York, who attended SBI in 2018. “The sessions really help you break down barriers and get you out of your comfort zone, and it was encouraging to hear that other superintendents from across the country are facing the same challenges as me. You will get a lot more out of SBI than you may think, both professionally and personally.”

To learn more about the Syngenta Business Institute and to apply online, please visit GreenCastOnline.com/SBI. Superintendents can also contact their local Syngenta territory manager for more information. Completed SBI applications are due Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2019. Selected participants will be notified of their acceptance in October.

Join the conversation on Twitter with @SyngentaTurf by using #SBI19.

About Syngenta
Syngenta is a leading agriculture company helping to improve global food security by enabling millions of farmers to make better use of available resources. Through world class science and innovative crop solutions, our 28,000 people in over 90 countries are working to transform how crops are grown. We are committed to rescuing land from degradation, enhancing biodiversity and revitalizing rural communities. To learn more visit www.syngenta.com and www.goodgrowthplan.com. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Syngenta and www.twitter.com/SyngentaUS.

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WeevilTrak from Syngenta Enhanced to Help Superintendents Manage Annual Bluegrass Weevil

To better help golf course superintendents manage annual bluegrass weevil (ABW), Syngenta has updated its ABW monitoring system, WeevilTrakSM with new courses, researchers and control recommendations.

"ABW activity is spreading to new locations, so we want to ensure WeevilTrak is evolving to meet the needs of superintendents through more monitoring sites and improved control products," said Stephanie Schwenke, turf market manager for Syngenta. "Based on requests we've received for additional input in Southern Virginia, we have added several new courses to the program. We've also improved the Optimum Control Strategy with Provaunt® WDG insecticide recommendations."

This year, Thomas Kuhar, Ph.D., professor at Virginia Tech, and Olga Kostromytska, Ph.D., assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, have joined the WeevilTrak team of researchers. They will monitor ABW activity in their respective locations and provide monthly updates for the WeevilTrak blog.

Syngenta has added new courses in Virginia that will serve as ABW research stations, including:

- The Federal Club in Glen Allen, Virginia
- Ballyhack Golf Club in Roanoke, Virginia
- Blacksburg Country Club in Blacksburg, Virginia

Other tools available for 2019:

- WeevilTrak text alerts that provide timely updates on local ABW progression
- WeevilTrak blog, regularly updated by 11 industry-leading ABW researchers and featuring 149 blog posts from the past four seasons
- Secondary course monitoring for additional localized stage-progression information
- Growing degree day model designed specifically for ABW
- Optimum Control Strategy outlining a proven ABW treatment protocol
  - Now includes recommendations for Provaunt WDG insecticide

WeevilTrak was voted the most popular scouting technique in an ABW study published by Ben McGraw and Albrecht Koppenhöfer1 in 2017, preceding plant phenology. Additional results from a 2018 survey of WeevilTrak users2 showed:

- 98 percent strongly agree/agree they value receiving WeevilTrak email alerts
- 95 percent strongly agree/agree they time their first-generation ABW applications to WeevilTrak recommendations

Since its launch 10 years ago, the WeevilTrak program has been continuously updated to provide new resources and help superintendents stay on top of the latest trends.

"ABW has historically been the most troublesome insect for golf course superintendents in the Northeast, and, in recent years, it has continued to move to other regions," said Steve McDonald, owner, Turfgrass Disease Solutions, and managing consultant for the WeevilTrak research team. "To help superintendents combat this pest, WeevilTrak continues to provide the tools they need to stay informed on ABW activity and the control options needed to prevent damage throughout the season."

Valuable information through WeevilTrak is only available for subscribers. Register now and sign up for text alerts by visiting WeevilTrak.com.

Join WeevilTrak and ABW tracking conversations on Twitter using #WeevilTrak.

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