Meet Our USGA Agronomists for the North-Central Region

Robert C. Vavrek, Jr.
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Bob is responsible for Turf Advisory Service visits in six states of the North Central Region of the USGA Green Section (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana). Other duties include writing articles for various publications and making numerous educational presentations at university turf conferences, USGA regional meetings, state /local golf association seminars, and golf course superintendent meetings. His goal since joining the Green Section six years ago is to help provide golfers the best playing conditions possible within the budgetary limitations of a particular golf facility.

A Masters degree in turfgrass entomology from The Ohio State University explains his interest in helping golf course superintendents make an accurate diagnosis of turf related problems and , whenever possible, to reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management. His Master’s thesis research investigated the impact of insecticides on beneficial arthropods in a Kentucky bluegrass home lawn ecosystem.

Bob lives in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. His hobbies are fishing, particularly fly fishing, and magic.

Robert A. Brame
Director
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Bob is Director of the USGA Green Section’s North Central Region. He serves courses in OH, IN, KY, MT, MN, SD, ND WI and MI, conducting Turf Advisory Service visits in the states of KY, IN and OH. In addition to hundreds of TAS visits made since joining the staff, Bob has written many articles and spoken throughout the region and country to various golf related groups. Prior to his present position, Bob was an Agronomist in the Mid-Atlantic Region serving PA, MD, VA, WV, OH, KY and DE.

Before joining the USGA Green Section Staff in early 1990, Bob was a golf course superintendent for eighteen years. Bob has worked as a course superintendent in Mexico, Chicago, Lafayette and Indianapolis. The decade before joining the Green Section Staff, Bob was the course superintendent at Broadmoor CC in Indianapolis. In the late 80’s, Broadmoor hosted a Senior Tour event which initiated Bob’s appreciation for championship conditioning. Bob has been a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) since 1973 and the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) since 1990.

Bob is a 1972 graduate of Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy. Before Purdue, Bob attended Vincennes University where he met his wife Rhonda. Bob and Rhonda (who also works in the North Central Region Office), live in Covington, Kentucky. The Brame’s have two grown children. Scott lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, and J. Nicole lives in Lexington, Kentucky.

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