

blood tests or allergy testing is inappropriate. We believe the condition should be termed 'golfer's vasculitis', as golf appears to be the most common precipitating event and such a term would enable the condition to become more widely recognized.

It seems the rash is more common than originally thought, and goes mis- or undiagnosed because the symptoms disappear before an appointment with a dermatologist or physician is made and subsequently completed. The rash commonly appears on legs of people who participate in walk-a-thons, and those who attend theme parks where a large amount of walking (usually in summer) is a given. In fact, the rash has been called the Disney Rash (the Disney Corporation may have been behind the name change) and has been attributed to the parks operated by Disney for many years.

"I have gotten the Disney Rash during my last several trips but I thought I was allergic to the landscaping since Disney is the only place I get it!"



You don't have to play golf to get the rash. One of the more common places people get Golfer's Vasculitis is at theme parks, where they walk and stand for long periods throughout the day.

Another park goer thought it had something to do with the paving at Epcot. "... our experiences have been only in Epcot. Back in 2001, I thought I read over on the parks board something about there being very small pieces of glass mixed in with the pavement ingredients and when mixed with the sun reflecting up from it the end result was this rash."

Golfer's Vasculitis as named by the Australian Journal of Dermatology is caused by prolonged exercise under hot conditions. It typically occurs in healthy people and usually starts above the sock line on the calves of those afflicted. The blood vessels in the leg become irritated, inflamed, and eruptions appear as red splotches or patches. In most cases the affected areas do not itch.

Prevention and Treatment of Golfer's Vasculitis

The research offered no treatment or prevention recommendations. Thankfully, (from one who is in the golf industry) it should not be considered a health concern nor should anyone afflicted with it begin allergy or extensive medical testing. However, if one is unsure a diagnosis from a dermatologist or physician is recommended.

If one suffers from Golfer's Vasculitis, common sense would dictate, don't go for long walks when it is hot outside. The most common recommendations I found are to:

See your doctor or dermatologist and suggest Golfer's Vasculitis

- Take a golf car instead of walking on hotter days
- Pamper your legs following a round of golf – elevate and apply cool compresses
- Try compression socks or supportive leggings



The next time a member or golfer asks you what you've been applying to the turf and blaming you for the rash that has broken out on their lower legs, tell them about the Disney Rash. ☺



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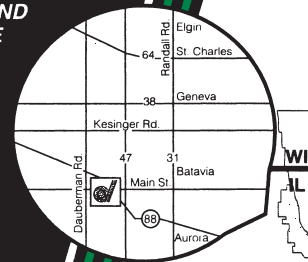
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Another Poa Cure?



Edgewood Valley Country Club and Superintendent Ron McCarthy hosted the July Meeting in LaGrange, Illinois. Of course it was sunny, humid, and hot. A typical July day. The education for the day featured Dr. Bruce Branham from the University of Illinois.

He revealed some incredible breakthrough technology on the horizon for the elimination of *Poa annua* on greens. Really?? Research and technology has finally found an herbicide that can kill the “uber grass?” This is BIG NEWS. Grass growers and scientists have been searching for the “magic bullet” that will kill the *Poa* without hurting the bentgrass since the dawn of greenkeeping. Please tell us more.

The product is called Poa Cure. The active ingredient is methiozolin. The product was “discovered” in Korea by a scientist who was looking at herbicides for control of weeds in rice paddies. The research using Poa Cure for *Poa annua* control has been conducted for the last three years. The product works. Dr. Branham believes it to have “a very good margin of safety” on cool season turf varieties. His trials began in 2011 and on course testing began in 2012 at North Shore Country Club.

Dr. Branham has tested the product on USGA and push up greens. He still has questions regarding different effectiveness on different soil types and if frost conditions have an impact.

The product works by inhibiting *Poa annua*’s root growth. Applications are made in the spring and fall. It will be marketed and sold as a two year program to minimize voids by slowly removing the unwanted *Poa* and allow the existing bentgrass to slowly fill in. “It just melts away.” Hmmm.

Dr. Branham has not seen any injuries on the 21 different bentgrass cultivars at the University of Illinois field turf plots. Dr. Branham’s commented further:

- Control is gradual but very evident.
- Certain *Poa* biotypes appear to be more injured than others.

- Spring applications have shown to be “safer”, displaying less overall visual injury.

Dr. Branham cautions that resistance may be inevitable for any single use herbicide control product. This product may work well in conjunction with other *Poa* control products already on the market. Despite any potential injury this product is a “game changer.”

The program as you can guess will not be cheap. The projected cost for applications to cover 3 acres of putting green turf over the two year period is expected to around \$7,500.

Currently the product is only labeled in Korea. It is owned by a private owner and is labeled specifically for putting greens. At this time, this is the only intention for the product usage. As you know most of the previous *Poa* control products were never labeled for putting greens. The liability is too high. Expect to see the product released in the United States in 2015.

Dr. Branham concluded his day with a discussion on climate change. He cautioned for the skeptics that the data is proving the warming trend to be REAL. The planet is getting warmer. The ice in Antarctica and the Arctic is melting, just ask the Polar bears.

He recommends that all golf courses have a “plan.” We can become leaders in the environmental movement educating on the benefits of green grass and golf courses as beneficial assets. He recommends you think longer term. Think about how we can become more efficient as energy and water will become expensive in the future. Increase solar energy use, use recycled products, decrease our carbon foot print and decrease overall water usage. Thanks Dr. Branham for the update, always good stuff. ☺

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Regional Roundup

Legislatively there is always a lot going on in the golf industry. GCSAA is watching out for you as well. Chava McKeel, our government relations expert is watching Washington very closely on matters that affect golf course superintendents. Immigration reform, NPDES (yes we are still battling that issue) and many other items are at the forefront of our fight.

Chava's plate is so full GCSAA has decided to give her an assistant to help her and also to better assist the membership. From time to time GCSAA will send out a legislative alert when we need our members help. These alerts are on the website and you can click on the alert, a prewritten letter will be there, you can read it, add your comments if you like, enter your zip code and it will be sent to your legislators on your behalf. It is a great way to tell your legislators how the decisions they make affect you and your golf course. They are definitely hearing it from the other side; they need to hear your side of the story too!

The first Round For Research auction ended June 16th with great results. There were 748 rounds donated for 2013. In the June auction we offered 669 rounds and 483 (72%) were sold raising \$106,000. \$79,256.80 went back to the chapters and \$26,889.20 went to the Environmental Institute for Golf. There were also cash donations by golf courses totaling \$1,450.00. It was a great auction for Rounds for Research and we are very excited about the upcoming August auction. We are looking for similar results.

The Environmental Institute for Golf needs your help too. The EIFG helps golf course superintendents by providing funds for research, education, scholarships and GCSAA programs. The money raised directly impacts GCSAA members. GCSAA is constantly soliciting industry partners and friends of golf to make a difference but it is a difficult sale when only about 12% of GCSAA members now donate to the EIFG. The amount of the donation is not at issue, it is the number of GCSAA members that donate to please take 5 minutes to donate \$5 to the EIFG today. Your donation is tax deductible and easy to do at eifg.org. Thank you for your consideration in donating to the EIFG.

- John Miller, CGCS

Chapter Delegates Meeting

The 2013 Chapter Delegates meeting will be held in Lawrence, KS. at The Oread Hotel and GCSAA Headquarters Oct. 1-3, 2013. Don Ferreri has agreed to represent the Midwest and will travel to Lawrence to do so.

The focus of this year's Chapter Delegates Meeting is the future. What will the golf industry and profession look like in the year 2020? What forces will be at play that affects our members and their ability to do their job? How will these things affect GCSAA? And what will the association need to be providing to its members in order to prepare them to meet these challenges.

The GCSAA Board of Directors held a Strategic Planning Session where it worked through these and other questions as it pertained to the future. GCSAA has asked the delegates to answer these questions prior to the meeting:

- Do you feel it would help GCSAA's marketing efforts to employers to simplify the membership classifications? Does Class A get lost in the marketplace due to the fact GCSAA has several different member classifications?
- Thinking about the needs of future superintendents, do you feel GCSAA should enhance Class A standards? What comes to mind?
- How quickly should GCSAA move on this initiative? 3, 5, or 10 years?
- As you think about your chapter members who are not Class A, what needs to happen to make him/her want to achieve Class A? Any thoughts on what would create that tipping point?

Please give Don a call 630-852-1746 or an email: dsferreri@cs.com to share your thoughts with him so he may represent us well. @



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Luke Cella, CGCS, MAGCS


Family Fun at the Ballpark & MAGCS Members Share with the First Tee

Family Night Picnic

MAGCS hosted another Family Night Picnic on July 20th at the Kane County Cougar Baseball Stadium, now known as Fifth Third Bank Ballpark. 87 members and guests enjoyed the food, fellowship and the game – at least until the sixth inning when the sky opened up and the rain came. As the storm approached, most of the superintendents started to compare radar apps on their phones and the conversations started to center around whether or not the storm would bring any rain to “my” golf course. As the usher for our section urged us to take cover, I distinctly remember one of our members telling him we have at least six minutes before we got wet. If there was one group that was not upset the night ended a little early it was ours. Thanks to our sponsors: **Bayer, Burris Equipment Company, Nels J Johnson Tree Experts, Reinders, Inc. and Syngenta Professional Products** and all those who made it out.



Midwest Members Teach Youth

On August 16, several Midwest members aided the First Tee of Greater Chicago by educating 24 teenagers at our home, the Midwest Golf House and at Cog Hill Golf Club. In partnership with John Deere, The First Tee pilot program "Careers On Course" gave young people an opportunity to explore career paths in golf course management and science. The whole program places a particular focus on agronomy and golf course equipment and management related education. **Scott Pavalko, Nick Marfise, Dave Radaj II, CGCS, Ed Fischer, CGCS Retired, Pete Leuzinger CGCS Retired, Ed Nangle, PhD, Troy Tietjens, and Rick Uthe** shared their knowledge and experience. Each spoke on different topics giving the attendees an overview of the operations and the science behind golf course management. The kids were interested and engaged, listening and asking pertinent questions throughout the day. Two of the kids will be selected to spend the day with **Chad Ball, CGCS** as he prepares for the BMW Championship. The First Tee hopes to continue this program in the coming years, and was very thankful for the participation of our members. 



Dave Radaj explains the use of the moisture meters as one of the youth probe a putting green at Cog Hill.



Troy Tietjens (r) awaits his turn to teach as Denver Caldwell, John Deere Marketing Manager, shares the story about John Deere and the company's commitment to our industry.

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Brookside Labs.....	18
Commercial Turf & Tractor	27
CS Turf.....	25
Dirt-n-Turf Consulting	18
Duntelman Turf Farms	23
Great Lakes Turf.....	2
Growing Solutions	19
Global Bureau Investigations.....	25
Halloran and Yauch.....	25
Harris Golf Car Sales	27
Hollembeak Construction	2
J.W. Turf, Inc.....	2
Koelper Golf Course Construction	25
Layne Western	25
Lemont Paving	27
Martin Implement Sales	23
Nadler Golf	25
Nels J Johnson Tree Experts.....	16
Pearl Valley Organix	27
Precision Laboratories, Inc.	25
Prime Turf	23
ProGro Solutions.....	7
Quali Pro.....	19
Redexim North Amercia.....	27
Reinders Inc	BC
Riverwalls.....	29
SAS Management, LLC.	27
Syngenta Professional Products.....	15,22
Shoreline Sand Solutions.....	19
Water Well Solutions Illinois Division.....	27
Waupaca Sand & Solutions	23