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Home of the 2020 Annual Meeting

Summer 2020

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 11-12
Annual Meeting
and Golf at
The Ridges
Wynne, AR**

**Nov 1-2
2nd Annual
Border Battle
Bella Vista, AR**

**Dec
Superintendents
Round Table
TBD**

President's Message:

Well, it's been an adventure! The Bizarro World of 2020 just seems to keep hanging on. Hopefully, as time passes, we will be able to get things back to normal and begin the healing process. No one knows how long it will be before our economy stabilizes and we can write budgets that mean something. Superintendents and General Managers will be stretched to the limit in trying to provide the expected product during lean and unpredictable times. But hey! That's what we do! Hopefully, there will be enough patience and understanding to see all of us through what's ahead.

As our organization moves forward, our job will be to keep the lines of communication open with our industry partners and our peers to support each other during trying times. In many cases, our first instinct is to withdraw and look to ourselves to solve problems, but I encourage all of you to be there for each other and reach out to each other to find the best solutions and best outcomes. There is more pain to come, no doubt. The losses of 2020 will linger and we will once again be called upon to make lemonade out of lemons. But hey! That's what we do!

Jeff Haskins

• THE PROS OF BEING A PRO •

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ARKANSAS LATEST STATE TO PUBLISH BMP GUIDELINES FOR GOLF COURSES

by May 26, 2020 | Kate Hiebert

The Arkansas GCSA leads the development of statewide best management practices with a grant from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Lawrence, Kan. (May 26, 2020) – The hard work of the Arkansas Golf Course Superintendents Association has resulted in the publication of “Best Management Practices for Arkansas Golf Courses”.

The Arkansas BMPs were developed in part by using the BMP Planning Guide and Template created by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and funded and supported by the USGA.

The Arkansas GCSA received a \$8,350 BMP grant that GCSAA funded through the association’s Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) in part by the PGA Tour. The BMP grant program provides funding through the EIFG to chapters for developing new guides, updating existing guides or for verification programs. GCSAA’s goal is to have all 50 states offer established BMPs by the end of 2020.

The BMPs provide guidance in 12 key areas including planning and design, pollinator protection, surface water management, and nutrient management, that speak to the superintendents’ dedication to protecting the state’s natural resources.

Jay Randolph, certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) at Ben Geren golf Course in Fort Smith, Ark., was part of the Arkansas BMP Steering Committee.

“It was important for us to have as many courses as we could get on the same page and be more sustainable and show the positive affect we can have in the environment,” Randolph said concerning the creation of the document.

Others who served on the committee or assisted with the document include Jason Cook, sales representative for Keeling Co. in North Little Rock, Ark.; Scott Kuhn, superintendent at Mystic Creek Golf Club in El Dorado, Ark.; Brandon Nichols, superintendent at Fayetteville (Ark.)

Country Club; Mike Richardson, Ph.D., department of horticulture, University of Arkansas; Brandon Wright, superintendent at Country Club of Little Rock (Ark.); and Dade Wilson, superintendent at Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, Ark.

To read “Best Management Practices for Arkansas Golf Courses” and to learn more about GCSAA’s BMP program, visit www.gcsaa.org/bmp.



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Fun Fact #1 :Did you know that there are more than 10,000 types of grass? In addition to turf, grass varieties include rice, wheat, corn, bamboo and sugar



GCSAA has Launched Health Insurance Access for all members on the website.

President Trump issues executive order which prohibits new H-2B visas for 2020

Rounds 4 Research Auction July 20-26th—Can you donate a round?

The Disaster Relief Fund is here to help provide immediate financial assistance to GCSAA members who have suffered job loss. GCSAA will provide up to \$500 to members who have experienced the loss of their jobs, layoffs or have been unable to work due to the effects of COVID-19. Any GCSAA member is eligible for this assistance, excluding the Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent classification.

GIS ~ Las Vegas ~ Scenarios for 2021

Can we produce a quality experience that meets the safety recommendations for COVID-19?

To help us prepare, we are developing five scenarios and mapping out what every activity would look like in each scenario. The five scenarios are based on potential pandemic threat levels.

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1. Scenario One (low threat): Business as usual.
2. Scenario Two (minimal threat): Live event in Las Vegas with social distancing and large-gathering restrictions in place.
3. Scenario Three (moderate threat): Hybrid with a live event in Las Vegas and virtual event options.
4. Scenario Four (substantial threat): An all virtual event.
5. Scenario Five (significant threat): Event postponed or cancelled.



Jason Cook

501-786-0985

jcook@keelingcompany.com

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GCSA of Arkansas Welcomes New Executive Director Samantha Nuckolls

Samantha officially took over the reins from Mary Beth on June 1st.



We are excited to have her and look forward to new ideas. She has been at Hot Springs Country Club for 18 years as office manager for Trey Rutledge. She is married to his Superintendent Trent and they have 2 children, Addison & Alex. Her top priorities are member participation and outreach. She would like to see more members get involved on our social media accounts. Her knowledge of the industry will no doubt be an asset to the association.

Fun Fact #2

Just 50 square feet of turf releases enough oxygen to support a family of four

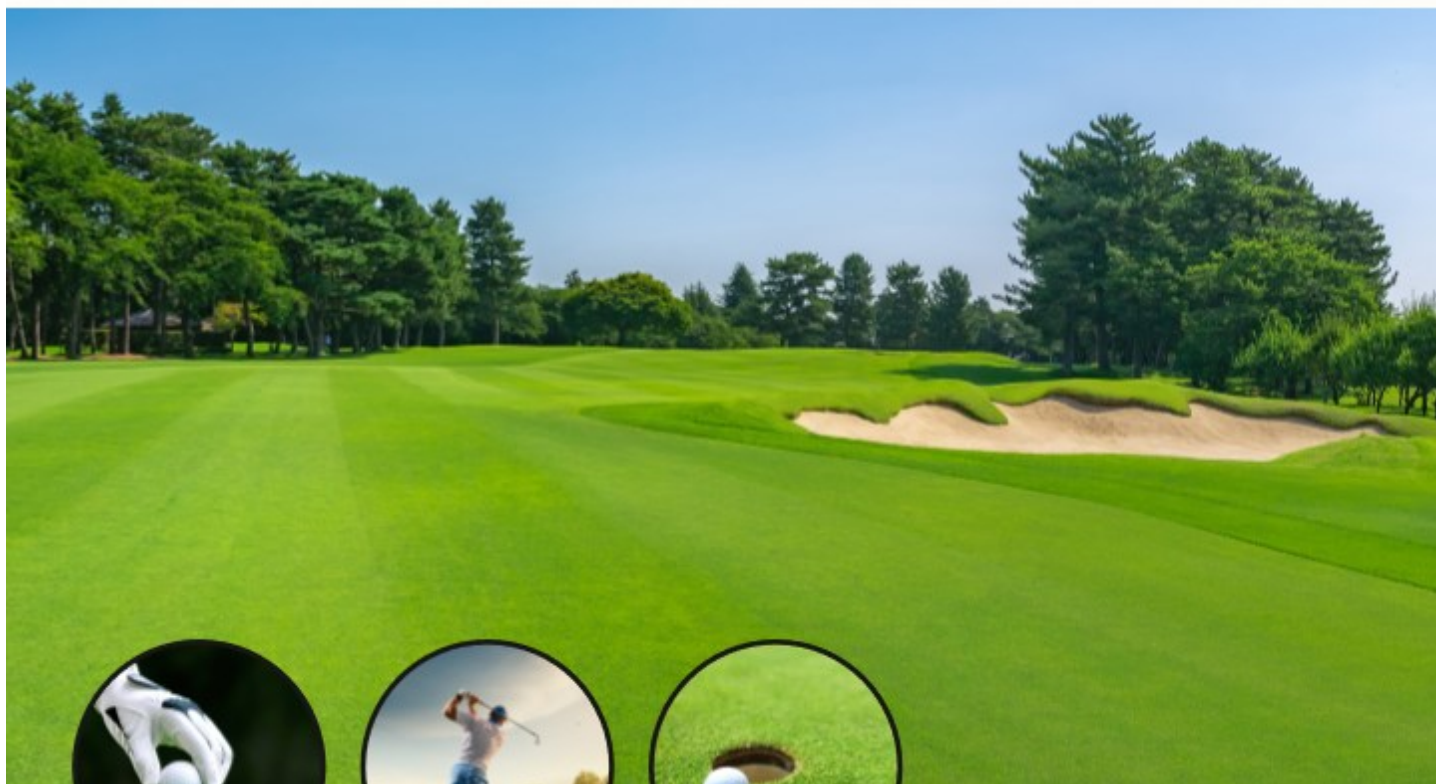
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ANNUAL MEETING at THE RIDGES



Cabins Available for rent Sunday night and Monday night

Contact Samantha if you would like to rent a cabin



Sunday night ~ cookout at the cabins

Monday ~ lunch before golf



Silver Cup Golf Tournament

To be eligible to win you must be a paid member

Fun Fact #3



More than 90 percent of a typical golf course is comprised of turf grass, a water body or other natural areas that prevent erosion, filter runoff, and provide for cooler temperatures when compared to urban settings.

The Truth About Green Speed

By George Waters, USGA Green Section

The following content was first published in the monthly digital edition of Golf Journal. To be among the first to receive access to Golf Journal, the USGA's Members-only quarterly print and monthly digital publication – along with the many other benefits of becoming a USGA Member – visit the USGA Membership page at support.usga.org.



The most important thing to know about green speed is that faster does not mean better. (USGA/John Mummert)

Green speed is one of the most sensitive and misunderstood topics in golf. Golfers see lightning-fast greens on television or hear claims about green speeds at a course they admire and think that's an ideal that other courses should aspire to. What they may not realize is that those conditions require [significant resources to deliver](#), may

last for only a short period of time, and are not appropriate for the vast majority of golf courses or golfers. There is also a lot of misinformation about green speeds, so golfers shouldn't believe everything they hear from their playing partners or television broadcasters. Here are five things every golfer should know about green speed:

Faster does not mean better

The [appropriate green speed](#) for a particular course depends on the putting green contours, grass type, maintenance budget and skill level of the golfers playing – along with numerous other considerations. Trying to make greens faster than they should be leads to higher maintenance costs, turf damage, lost hole locations, and rounds of golf that are slower and less enjoyable. Sacrificing other aspects of putting green quality in the pursuit of speed just doesn't make sense.

Green speeds fluctuate

Putting greens are comprised of living plants that change and perform differently from season to season and even day to day. Temperature, humidity, rainfall and routine maintenance practices all influence daily green speed. Maintaining the same green speed throughout the year is impossible, and letting a target number dictate management practices is a recipe for damaged greens and undesirable playing conditions.

Green speeds don't travel

One of the most important things to know about green speed measurements is that they should not be used to compare one golf course with another. A green speed that is perfect for one course could be way too fast for a course down the road that has steeper green contours or golfers with different skill levels. There are simply too many variables involved to make reasonable comparisons.



The appropriate green speed for a course depends on putting green design, grass type, golfer ability and many other factors. (USGA/Kirk H. Owens)

Speed costs money

While golfers hear a lot of discussion about courses with fast greens, they don't hear as much about all that goes into providing those conditions. Lower mowing heights, regular topdressing, verticutting and hand watering are just some of the practices involved in maintaining

faster greens. In addition, courses that maintain faster greens typically invest heavily in improving putting green growing environments by removing trees and enhancing drainage. The investments required on a daily and yearly basis to deliver faster green speeds are substantial, and beyond the budget of most golf courses.

Speed can kill

Periods of high heat, humidity and other environmental stresses can push putting green health close to the edge. Trying to maintain a particular green speed during difficult weather carries a serious risk of causing lasting damage that could negatively impact smoothness and speed for weeks to come. To protect putting green turf, golf course superintendents may raise mowing heights or reduce the frequency of mowing and rolling during stressful weather. These adjustments mean temporarily slower green speeds, but they will help preserve good playing conditions for the weeks and months ahead.

It's easy to understand how golfers can place too much emphasis on green speed. Numbers invite comparisons and faster can easily be mistaken for better. However, if we can keep the big picture in mind and remember that speed is just one of many factors in putting green quality, we'll save ourselves and superintendents a lot of headaches.



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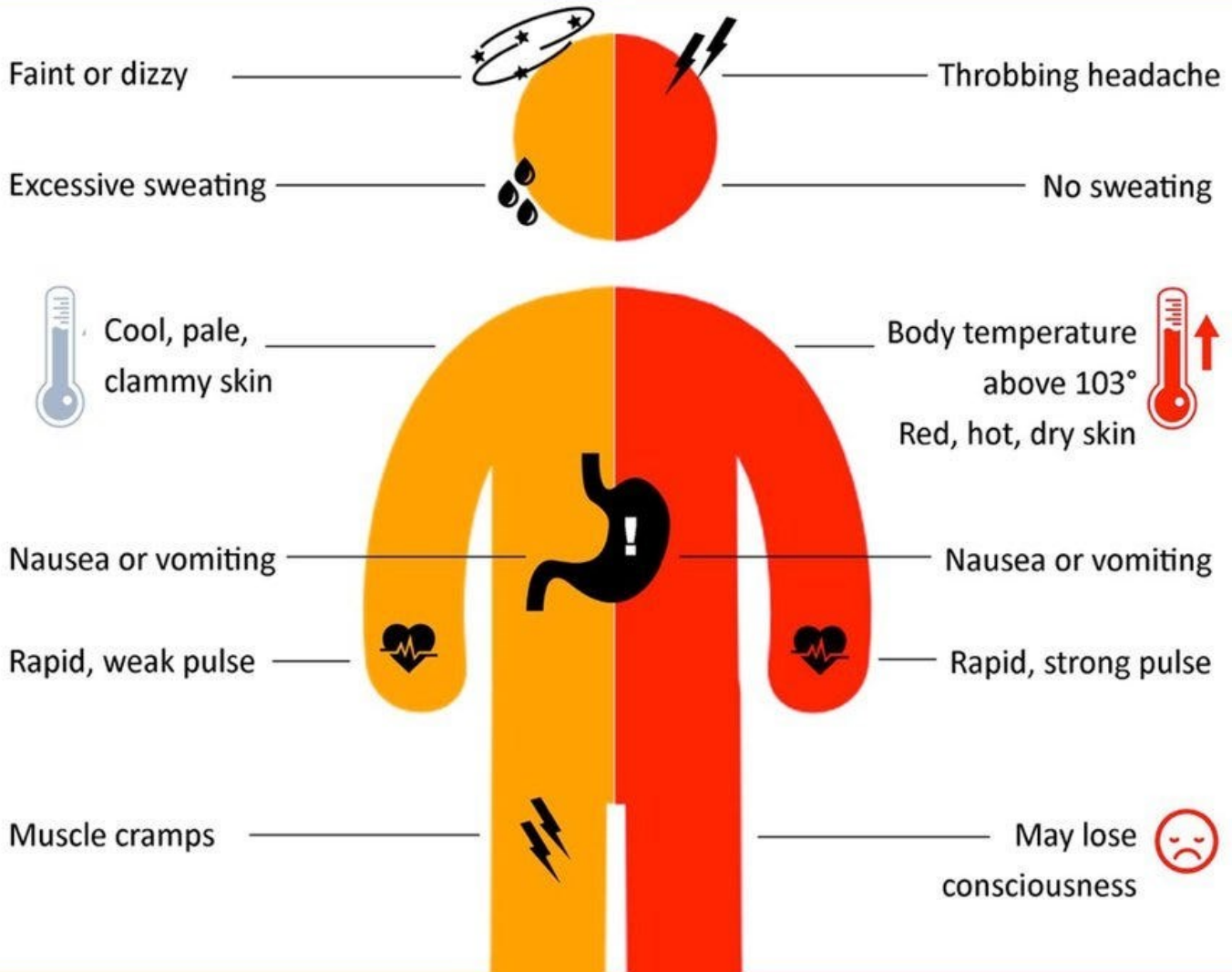
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THREE PHASED APPROACH

PHASE 1 Individual Golf



- Gatherings of no more than 10 people
- Strict social distancing
- Walking the course or single cart riders
- Restricted golf course set up
- Clubhouses, golf shops and other amenities closed

PHASE 2 Restricted Programming



- Gatherings of no more than 50 people
- Social distancing maintained
- Normal groups of golfers may play together with social distancing
- Restricted golf course set up maintained
- Clubhouse operations are limited
- Restrictions on leagues, events and youth activities

PHASE 3 New Normal



- Unrestricted gatherings with social distancing
- Comprehensive sanitization procedures
- New Normal golf operations
- New Normal golf course maintenance
- Full Clubhouse operations and events
- Unrestricted leagues and youth activities



MEMBER SURVEY

Have you taken our member survey yet? You can find the link on our website, Facebook, or Twitter.

The information gathered will help us get to know you and give you a chance to voice your opinion.

Some of the questions are being used for our “Monday Member Spotlight”

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Thank you Mary Beth

You were such an invaluable part
of our association!

We will greatly miss you !

Congratulations on your new
position and Good Luck.



2020

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Chase Turpin - Pinnacle

Tim Schaefer – Harrell's

Fun Fact #4

The average golf course
absorbs 4 million gal-
lons of water during a 1-
inch rainstorm.

Newsletter

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Photos are encouraged.

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