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On the front cover / above (left to right): Last year at the Little League World Series — Jeff Fowler, Penn State Cooperative Extension turfgrass educator; his son, Evan, assistant groundskeeper with the Kansas City Royals; and Evan’s grandfather, Don, retired Penn State Extension agent and one of the founders of the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization.
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Today, I reach out at a time when most green-industry professionals are at the peak of their work schedules, and times can be quite hectic. The wheels are turning, deadlines are set, clients are expecting more than ever before, and the pressure is on. Are you in need of a break? Maybe you are looking for advice or a second opinion on a challenge that you may be facing? Know that overcoming your obstacles this summer can be accomplished with the help of your Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council membership and Penn State turf team network.

Penn State’s turf team (see page 18) continues to supply groundbreaking research for green-industry professionals, and we’re thrilled to have the opportunity to publish glimpses into their work within this quarterly magazine. Additional turf team updates and PTC accomplishments can be found by following us on Twitter (@PaTurf), Facebook (Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council) and our website (Paturf.org). If you haven’t visited our website recently, be sure to take a peek at our most recent updates. If you are not currently a member of the PTC, we highly encourage you to become one! Encourage friends and colleagues to also join in supporting ongoing turfgrass research and development. Updates, accomplishments and news from the Council and turf team will be posted to these social-media feeds on a regular basis — don’t miss out!

The Council and I are working hard to build our membership base and to boost attendance at our annual Eastern, Western and Northeast conferences. If you have never attended one of the three annual conferences, I strongly urge you to attend at least one of the very affordable and educational events in 2016. (Dates for the conferences are noted on page 18). All members will be receiving “Save the Date” emails several months in advance of each conference, and pre-registration brochures will then be mailed leading up to the specific conference.

Finally, please take the time to share this publication with your friends and colleagues. I thank you for reading this update and for your continued support of the PTC. If the PTC or I can help you in anyway this summer, please do not hesitate to contact the PTC office (814-237-0767 or info@paturf.org) or me (610-451-3229 or andrewd@berkshirecountryclub.org).

Andrew Dooley
2015–2016 PTC President
The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council (PTC) serves its members in the industry through education, promotion and representation. The statements and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the association, its staff, or its board of directors, Pennsylvania Turfgrass, or its editors. Likewise, the appearance of advertisers, or PTC members, does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services featured in this, past or subsequent issues of this publication. Copyright © 2015 by the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. Pennsylvania Turfgrass, is published quarterly. Subscriptions are complimentary to PTC members. Presorted standard postage is paid at Nashville, TN. Printed in the U.S.A. Reprints and Submissions: Pennsylvania Turfgrass, allows reprinting of material published here. Permission requests should be directed to the PTC. We are not responsible for unsolicited freelance manuscripts and photographs. Contact the managing editor for contribution information. Advertising: For display and classified advertising rates and insertions, please contact Leading Edge Communications, LLC, 206 Bridge Street, Franklin, TN 37064, (615) 790-3718, Fax (615) 794-4524.
Over the past 15 years, the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO) has volunteered its members at the end of summer as millions of sports fans from around the world turn their eyes to South Williamsport for the Little League World Series. Sixteen teams of players, ages 11 and 12, descend on the Little League complex in Lycoming County in hopes of being crowned a true sports “world” champion. The Little League World Series (LLWS) has become a grand event. Television coverage of every game played during the series on the ABC/ESPN family of networks has turned up the exposure, and that has increased the need for professional-grade playing surfaces.

“The chapter has been honored to assist Little League Baseball with field preparation for fifteen years,” says Jeffrey T. Fowler, Penn State Cooperative Extension turfgrass educator and board member for the KAFMO chapter, as well as for the national Sports Turf Managers Association. “We arrive before the series begins, and we level the playing surface, edge the fields and resod any areas that are worn from summer play, all in preparation for the games that will be played and televised during the ten days of the series. Our number-one goal is to provide the safest playing surfaces possible for the kids to play on.”

Fowler is quick to credit Seth Whitehill, groundskeeper at the complex, for his hard work and dedication throughout the year. “Seth does a great job year-round in preparing the fields for the Series,” he says. “He applies fertilizer, sprays and mows throughout the year when there are no television cameras around to see everything that is going on.” (Seth graduated from Penn State with a bachelor’s degree in Turfgrass Science in 2008 and no longer works at Little League.)

LLWS games are contested each year at two premier Little League Baseball (LLB) stadiums, Lamade and Volunteer. Each venue features natural, Kentucky bluegrass surfaces and can accommodate up to 3,300 spectators, with an additional 30,000 fans on the hill. The 88-acre baseball complex features six fields, including Lamade and Volunteer stadiums, one full-sized baseball field, two practice fields and one practice infield.

Don Fowler, Jeff’s father, says, “I had just retired after 33 years as an Extension agent for Penn State when Ron Scott from Little League asked me to get involved in the rebuilding of the complex, for his hard work and dedication throughout the year. “Seth does a great job year-round in preparing the fields for the Series,” he says. “He applies fertilizer, sprays and mows throughout the year when there are no television cameras around to see everything that is going on.” (Seth graduated from Penn State with a bachelor’s degree in Turfgrass Science in 2008 and no longer works at Little League.)

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LLWS games are contested each year at two premier Little League
field in South Williamsport. This was in 1995, as the organization was preparing for the fiftieth anniversary of the Little League World Series. Ken asked me to be the ‘clerk of the works’ between Little League and the contractors.”

The elder Fowler recalls, “Coincidentally, 1995 was the year we formed KAFMO. We had a meeting at the Farm Show Arena in Harrisburg, and anyone who showed up was automatically considered a member. So, we had KAFMO members involved at Little League from our very beginning. When the field was being re-built, we needed some help, and I called Dan Douglas, head groundskeeper for the Reading Fightin’ Phils [also president of KAFMO and a board member of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council], who put out the word, and sure enough, about 15 people showed up, ready to work. Some of those people continue to be at the core of KAFMO today.”

In the early years, they had to rebuild the mounds and batters’ boxes every season, “but now that there’s a professional groundskeeper on staff there, we mostly edge, topdress and do the in-game tasks,” Fowler continues. “The individuals volunteering their time in South Williamsport were, and continue to be, happy to be there. The crews have always been made up of people intent on pursuing their profession, and Little League is a wonderful place to work. They really appreciate what we do for them.”

The groundskeeping volunteers are housed on Little League property, and KAFMO solicits $300 donations from commercial members of KAFMO and STMA national to pay for all crew meals during the week. There are 40 total volunteers, not all of whom are on site the entire week. Instead, they work 16 at a time; early on in the tournament, two fields are used, so they are split up into teams of 8 per field. Tasks such as mound preparation, re-lining, brooming edges and grooming the infield are split up among the crewmembers, all of whom are sports turf professionals or experienced LLWS volunteers. Everyone knows what needs to be done.
There is a waiting list of volunteers. “Whenever I speak, I always ask for volunteers, no matter where I’m speaking; it could be anywhere in the country. We have six volunteer spots that rotate, with each volunteer being in Williamsport two years in a row,” says Jeff Fowler. “When LLWS gets names of people who want to volunteer, they pass them along to me to screen.

“There’s not much free time; we arrive at the fields at seven a.m. every day and stay until the last game is over that day. Not all eight crew members have to be on hand all day, but we operate as a grounds crew operates. People take vacation time from their own work schedules and leave family at home to come to the series to assist with field preparations. Some stay for the entire two weeks, while others help out for a few days,” Fowler continues. “The crew that we assemble is second to none for the Little League World Series: not only do they have the fields at the forefront of their minds, but also their professionalism is second to none. Having people realize that there is more to having a safe field than putting down lines and mowing grass is also a goal of the group.”

Last year was more special than most, as a third Fowler, Evan (son of Jeff and grandson of Don), joined the crew. “It was an exciting year for our family as three generations were represented,” says Jeff. “Sports turf has been a common bond for all of us, and it was great to share quality time with them.”

Evan is an assistant groundskeeper with the Kansas City Royals while working online for his turfgrass degree from Penn State. He was the 2014 recipient of the James R. Watson Undergraduate Safer Athletic Field Environment Scholarship.

Thirty-four televised games in 10 days take their toll on the fields in South Williamsport in mid-August. Yet, every year, the grounds crew manages to battle through whatever is thrown their way to pull off one of the greatest youth sporting events in the world. The KAFMO-led crew members are proud of what they are able to help out with during the series. Many of the crew members have been attending for 15 years or more. Some bring their own children with them to help out. According to Fowler, “That is the next generation of sports turf managers. I tell kids all the time, ‘The fast way to the major leagues is with a rake in your hand.’”

Since the first televised event in 1994, the global reach and recognition of LLWS have helped grow the sport. More than 70 million viewers tuned to ESPN, ESPN 2, ESPN 3, ESPN U and WATCH ESPN in August. The additional media coverage has put a premium on producing secure, playable and visually appealing fields for TV viewers. ☺
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Effectively Managing Anthracnose Through the Use of Fungicides

By Wakar Uddin, Ph.D., Professor of Plant Pathology; Brian Aynardi, Ph.D. Candidate; and Gary Nolan, Ph.D. Student; Penn State University

Anthracnose basal rot, caused by *Colletotrichum cereale*, is a destructive disease of *Poa annua* putting greens in the northeastern U.S., particularly under stressed conditions. The disease has two phases: a foliar blight stage and a basal rot stage. The foliar blight stage may infect close-cut *Poa annua* or creeping bent-grass, although usually not both at the same time.

**Anthracnose symptoms**
Foliar blighting is typically found in summer, when daytime temperatures are high and with the presence of extensive periods of leaf moisture in conjunction with high humidity overnight. Rain and thunderstorms, particularly at night, provide conducive environmental conditions for foliar blighting to spread rapidly. The blighting causes a general yellowing and bronzing of leaves, which leads to irregular chlorotic or necrotic turf areas.

Basal rot occurs more frequently during spring (and some occasions in winter). Plants infected with basal rot exhibit a darkening of the lower stem and crown tissues. As opposed to foliar blighting, anthracnose basal rot forms small spots on the putting green surface during cool weather. Basal rot causes significant damage to large areas of a putting green under warm conditions.

**Disease spread**
Canoe-crescent shaped, the spores of anthracnose typically contain one or two lipid globules, or “eyes” (Photo 1). The spores are sticky and are therefore tracked easily by equipment, mowing, foot traffic and rain. Spores are formed in an acervulus with a gelatinous matrix. Found on the leaves, sheaths and base of infected plants, acervuli may be seen with a hand-lens (Photo 2).

Low height of cut, abrasive cultural practices and nutrient deficiencies are predisposing factors. However, researchers have recently found that regular...
topdressing may be beneficial to reducing disease severity, since it protects the crowns of susceptible plants.

**Control options**

Chemical and fertilizer applications have been the most effective means of controlling anthracnose. Research conducted during annual field-efficacy tests has yielded promising results (Photo 3). The most efficacious fungicide applications are typically applied on 14-day intervals, with rotations of various products from June through mid-August.

Several new products launched in the market in 2014 and 2015, and they have shown excellent control, particularly when applied as part of a rotation. These newly labeled fungicide products include Autilus and Velista.

Autilus (active ingredient, PCNB — yes, you read correctly!) has shown excellent control of anthracnose. However, it must be applied at significantly lower rates than when used for snow mold protection, and caution should be taken when applying it to creeping bentgrass, due to potential phytotoxicity when applied at high rates (12 fl. oz.). Research trials at Penn State, Rutgers and the University of Connecticut have all shown outstanding control of anthracnose by Autilus at the recommended rates. Recommended applications of Autilus are 6.0 fl. oz./1,000 ft², and they should be applied in late May or early June when weather conditions are cooler, and again in late August or September. The addition of Torque and Harrell’s Par to Autilus applications provided optimal control as part of a rotation.

Velista (a.i., penthiopyrad), an SDHI fungicide, also provides excellent control of anthracnose at the 0.5 oz./1,000 ft² rate, particularly as part of a rotation, and when tank-mixed with chlorothalonil. A broad-spectrum fungicide, Velista has shown good control for brown patch and very good control on dollar spot. Therefore, it would be a wise recommendation not to apply Velista without the proper rotation of other fungicides.

Although these two products are new to the market, there are numerous compounds from which to choose in order to complete a solid tank-mixing and rotation, including Torque, Signature, Daconil Ultrex, Disarm C, Medallion, Affirm, Disarm T and Insignia SC. Furthermore, the addition of small amounts of urea (< 0.25 lbs N/1,000 ft²) to applications to control anthracnose will add to disease control.
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Bob Hummer Honored with Fowler Founders Award

Hummer Turfgrass Systems was founded in 1972 by Bob Hummer as a specialty sports turf design/build firm. Hummer Turf is one of the longest-tenured, most-experienced firms in natural-grass sports turf installations. Using the agronomic knowledge that has been the cornerstone of Sporting Valley Turf Farms, Hummer Turf has excelled in the renovation of otherwise-difficult and problem sites. Over the years, Hummer has installed and renovated fields from the elementary school level to the National Football League.

At last winter’s KAFMO Conference, Bob Hummer was named this year’s Fowler Founders Award winner, named in honor of Donald Fowler, retired Penn State Extension agent, who is credited with organizing the group of individuals who formed KAFMO. The award itself is one of Fowler’s worn-out work boots that has been bronzed and signifies the hard work and determination demonstrated by the recipients. Award recipients are chosen by the KAFMO board of directors to honor individuals not only for their dedication to KAFMO, but also for doing their part in making a difference in the sports turf industry of Pennsylvania.

What are the most significant changes you’ve seen in the turfgrass industry over your career?

Hummer: Changes in the turfgrass industry during my career were and are record breaking. I entered the industry in early spring 1963 by asking the late Bill Mellon, former superintendent at Lancaster Country Club, for a grounds crew job. Bill had enough employees at the time, so he drove me across town to Conestoga Country Club, where I was hired in preparation to enter Penn State’s two-year turfgrass program in October 1963. Some 10 years earlier, President Eisenhower, with his love for golf, funded a number of Land Grant Agriculture schools with “golf” dollars for research to improve the lie, putting speeds and the overall-course turfgrass quality.

Sixty+ years later, the results of this research across the country have given today’s turfgrass managers, and me, the tools to produce much higher-quality grass surfaces, safer sports fields and more attractive home and commercial lawns. Thanks to genetic research, today’s turfgrass species and cultivars have resulted in more drought tolerance, disease resistance, darker green color and finer-textured varieties. Turf protectants that allow us to weed, feed and prevent turfgrass damage are obvious results of many years of chemistry research. The machines to mow, prepare seed beds, decompress soils and dethatch grasses are a shared result of research from our innovative equipment suppliers worldwide.

The other changes over my 52 years of growing and maintaining turfgrass are the abundance of better education and innovative and dedicated turfgrass workers and managers. This too is a direct result of research and education around the country and world.

What changes do you anticipate seeing over the next 5 to 10 years?

Hummer: Changes have already started in the turfgrass industry that are forcing our trade to take a much different direction. The goals for the turfgrass industry will need to switch from turfgrass quality to protecting our environment and natural resources. Some of these new goals will be protecting and preserving our waters, air quality, honey bees and fish cultures. Research and will be forced to focus on more drought-tolerant grasses such as the fescue families. Nutrients such as phosphorus are already being downsized, and nitrogen will need to do the same.

As you know, our politicians, community leaders and community activists are forcing us to move in this direction; some of this will be beneficial long term, but much is not based on facts and ignores the environmental pluses of turfgrass surfaces, such as supplying oxygen, cooling air temperatures and soil stabilization. I believe turfgrass research will...
be needed to help offset the inaccurate, negative perceptions of lawns and golf courses.

What advice do you have for turf managers when they are deciding what kind of grass to buy?

_Hummer:_ Fescues, fescues, fescues! Both the turf type tall fescues and fine fescues (particularly hard fescues) have taken quite a leap forward over the past 5 to 10 years. Some of the fine fescues can be mowed to a near putting green height of cut, and they continue to improve. Although Kentucky bluegrasses, turf type perennial ryegrasses and bentgrasses, over time, have all raised the bar for turfgrass quality, they simply require too much water and nitrogen to fit into our future water cuts and Save the Bay-type legislation.

How has being a member of KAFMO impacted your career and business?

_Hummer:_ KAFMO is a great, and growing, organization. It has helped me keep in touch with other members and learn about their experiences in maintenance and renovation relating to turf equipment, chemistry, plant food and grass types. KAFMO’s combined experience has definitely helped my business grow. I am both humbled and honored to have received the 2015 Fowler Founder “Bronze Boot” Award and look forward to future KAFMO activities.

What on-field maintenance task do you most like performing?

_Kerns:_ The task I most enjoy is mowing. The reason for that is I get to see everything that’s going on with the grass. If there is a brown spot, I can stop and look at it.

What’s your least favorite task?

_Kerns:_ My least favorite task is assembling goals and nets for the spring and fall. This is a time-consuming process, and it always needs to be done when there is so much to get done on the fields.

How do you communicate with coaches and administrators? What is important for success in that part of the job?

_Kerns:_ I communicate with our athletic director daily. If the referees or coaches tell her something is off on the fields, then she relays that information to me, and we can take a look at it. The most important part for this to work is that everyone knows to work together and that the fields are not my fields and the fields are not the athletic department’s — they are the school’s, and we need to work together to put the safest fields out there.

How has KAFMO helped you in your job?

_Kerns:_ KAFMO has helped me out tremendously. If I have a problem with something, I know I can always reach out to other members for information on how he or she handles the same issue. KAFMO is a great organization, and Dan Douglas and the board do a tremendous job of making sure to always get out any information about field days, conferences and jobs to the members.

Has winning the Field of Distinction Award made any noticeable difference in how your work is viewed by administration?

_Kerns:_ Germantown Friends has embraced the award with open arms. When I decided I was going to submit for the award, I wasn’t doing it for myself — I was doing it for the school. In the Philadelphia area, private schools are very competitive, and anything I can do to give our school the upper hand, I will.

What, if any, maintenance changes are you planning for the winning field in 2015?

_Kerns:_ We will not change too many things. My former boss at Episcopal Academy, CJ Lauer, mentioned to me when I was working for him to just keep it simple. I plan on continuing on with the KISS method (Keep it Simple, Stupid).
Michael Barlow (Cert. ’15) is an assistant superintendent at Woodway Country Club.

Patrick Barrett (Cert. ’97) is currently working for C-BONS International Golf Group in Phoenix, AZ. C-BONS owns and operates 33 golf courses all over the country, including courses in Phoenix, Las Vegas, Texas and the Northeast area.

Travis Blamires (Cert. ’02) is currently the superintendent at the Tonto Verde Golf Club.

Jack Blythe (Cert. ’15) is now the assistant in training at Hollywood Golf Club.

Robbie Bond (Cert. ’15) is now the assistant greenkeeper at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club.

R.J. Budd (Cert. ’15) is now the assistant in training at Crane Creek Country Club.

Ryan Budd, Benjamin Cibotti, Matthew Herrmann, Sean Kelly and Morgan Robins (Cert. ’15) are the 2015 recipients of the Penncross Bentgrass Growers Association scholarship.

Matt Devine (Cert. ’05) is currently the superintendent at NorthRiver Yacht Club in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Kyung Han (BS ’08 and MS ’12) is currently working for Moghu USA, as a PoaCure development manager.

Eddie Harbaugh (BS ’14) is currently working for the New York Jets as a field and grounds assistant.

Matthew Herrmann (Cert. ’15) is now the assistant in training at Merion Golf Club.

Jeff Jurina (Cert. ’15) is now at the Oakmont Country Club.

Hunter Keech (Cert. ’15) is now the 2nd assistant at Round Hill Club.

Sean Kelly (Cert. ’15) was the 2015 recipient of the Myles Adderley Technical Paper Writing Award and is now an assistant in training at the Country Club at Brookline.

Jeff Lansdowne (Cert. ’87) is now the director of grounds at Keystone College.

Matthew Lawrence (Cert. ’15) is now the assistant in training at Glenmura National Golf Club.

Justin Lewis (Cert. ’15) is now the assistant in training at Saucon Valley Country Club.

David Mattes (Cert. ’94) is currently the superintendent at The Links at Challedon in Mount Airy, MD.

Matt MacAskill (Cert. ’08) is now the assistant superintendent at the Manchester Lane Test Facility.

Devon Moll (Cert. ’15) is now the assistant in training at Gulph Mills Golf Club.

Troy Pelesky (Cert. ’15) was the recipient of the 2015 Duff Shaw Memorial Scholarship and is now the assistant superintendent at Waynesborough Country Club.

Morgan Robins (Cert. ’15) is now the environmental coordinator at Capilano Golf and Country Club.

Paul Schimpff (Cert. ’15) is now the assistant in training at Quail Hollow Club.

Jose Verduzco (Cert. ’15) was awarded the 2015 David S. Zimmerman Memorial Award.

Erik Worcester (Cert. ’15) is now the 2nd assistant at the Metedeconk National Golf Club.

Congratulations to the GOLF COURSE TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM Class of 2015!

- Michael Edward Barlow
- John Richard Blythe
- Robert Edward Bond
- Ryan Jeffrey Budd
- Benjamin R. Gibotti III
- Adam David Duncan
- Matthew Adam Herrmann
- Jeffrey M. Jurina
- Hunter A. Keech
- Sean Michael Kelly
- Matthew Tyler Lawrence
- Justin Michael Lewis
- Devon John Moll
- Troy Oliver Pelesky
- Morgan Daniel Robins
- Paul Maxwell Schimpff
- Michael C. Stell
- Jose Gabriel Verduzco
- Erik Michael Worcester
- Thomas Drew Young
Calendar of Events

July 19–21
PLANET Legislative Day on the Hill
Washington, D.C.

July 27 – August 1
Perennial Plant Symposium
Hilton Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

July 29–30
Penn-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (PANTS)
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA

August 2–6
StormCon — 2015 Conference
The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Conference
JW Marriott Austin
Austin, TX

September 15–17
NRPA Congress and Expo
(Nat. Rec. and Park Assn.)
Las Vegas, NV

October 21–23
PLANET Green Industry Conference
Louisville, KY

October 22–24
GIE+Expo — Green Industry Equipment Expo and School of Grounds Management
Kentucky Expo Center
Louisville, KY

November 10–12
Penn State Golf Turf Conference
Nittany Lion Inn
State College, PA

January 5–6, 2016
Eastern Pennsylvania Turfgrass Conference
Valley Forge Casino Resort
King of Prussia, PA

January 19–22, 2016
STMA Conference and Exhibition
San Diego, CA

January 28, 2016
Northeastern PA Turfgrass Conference & Tradeshow
Woodlands Inn
Wilkes Barre, PA

February 6–11, 2016
Golf Industry Show
San Diego Convention Ctr.
San Diego, CA

February 23–25, 2016
Western PA Turfgrass Conference & Tradeshow
Hilton Garden Inn
Cranberry Twp., PA

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