

**KTF Officers and Board of Directors**

**Steve Dale (President)** (316) 945-3525  
JoJacs Landscaping  
205 Cain Drive  
Haysville, KS 67060  
steve@jojacs.com

**Brian Anderson (Vice Pres.)** (913) 339-6700  
Leawood Parks & Rec.  
4800 Town Center Dr.  
Leawood, KS 66211

**Jack Fry (Sec.-Treas.)** (785) 532-1430  
Horticulture Division, KSU  
2021 Throckmorton Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

**Matt Campbell** (785) 584-6050  
Campbell Sod  
6147 NW Boyd Rd.  
Rossville, KS 66533

**Cliff Dipman** (785) 539-4053  
Manhattan Country Club  
P.O. Box 1026  
Manhattan, KS 66502

**Brad Gray** (913) 722-9432  
Mission Hills CC  
5400 Mission Drive  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66208

**Steve Klecan** (913) 381-8803  
Ryan Lawn & Tree  
5807 W. 99th  
Overland Park, KS 66207

**Matt Miller** (620) 694-2696  
Carey Park GC  
15 Emerson Loop  
Hutchinson, KS 67501

**Jerry Moore** (816) 891-9100  
Grass Pad  
11500 NW Barry Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64153

**Gregg Snyder** (316) 250-2902  
Turf Prof. Equip. Co.  
P.O. Box 48517  
Wichita, KS 67201

## Turf and Ornamentals Field Day

The Turf and Ornamentals Field Day will be held on Thursday, **August 6** at the **John C. Pair Horticultural Research Center in Wichita.**

**Tour Highlights:**

- Advances in Buffalograss
- Tall Fescue Varieties
- New Zoysias for Kansas
- Turf & Landscape Disease Update
- Turf & Ornamental Insects
- Ornamental Grasses
- EarthKind Roses
- The Resurging American Elms

The field day has been approved for the following credit hours:

0.5 hrs. in 3A & 3B for commercial pesticide applicators

.25 GCSAA education points for golf course superintendents

Be sure and pick up the forms at the registration table to receive credit.

Exhibitors will be on hand displaying their latest products and experts from the K-State staff will be there to answer your questions. The 2009 Turf Research report will be distributed at the field day.

Registration cost is \$30 and includes lunch. You should have received an electronic copy of the brochure. It is also available at

<http://www.kansasturfgrassfoundation.org/FieldDay.html>

This year you will also be able to register online.

We hope to see you on August 6!



# Message From the President



Okay, is it just me? Last winter I was worried about the upcoming spring and summer, not the rain, dry weather or insects, diseases and weed problems, but the economy! The forecast was gloom and doom and it was going to be rough. Well, I don't know about your town or city, but here in the Wichita area we are busy. According to the experts, the economy is still not as bad as it

was in 1982 and those of you that are old as dirt like I am, know what I mean.

I think half the battle is keeping your head up in difficult times and plugging along. Giving up or having a bad attitude will hurt you more than the tough economic times ever will. There are good and bad times with any kind of business. Networking and attending KTF programs like the summer field day at the John C. Pair Research Center on August 6, is an excellent way to visit with others and do some brainstorming to see that we are all in this together and together we can kick butt! You will also get up-to-date information on turfgrass changes and problems at the field day. Hope to

## EPA WaterSense Initiative

I want to write a little about the EPA's WaterSense Program...Some of this info you may have seen in one of my latest listserve email notices, but I've added some info about how to contact the EPA. What is the EPA WaterSense Initiative? From their Website you can read these paragraphs;

*"WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, programs, and practices.*

*WaterSense will help consumers identify water-efficient products and programs. The WaterSense label will indicate that these products and programs meet water efficiency and performance criteria. WaterSense labeled products will perform well, help save money, and encourage innovation in manufacturing."*

Which sounds great. A voluntary program that is designed to conserve and protect our nation's water supply. However, most turf professionals and most scientists have some problems with the current verbiage in their proposal, which states the following: (Directly from the proposal)

*WaterSense labeled new homes; builders shall choose and implement one of these options. Option 1 provides a turfgrass allowance and Option 2 allows the builder/landscape professional to design a landscape that is sustainable with a specified amount of water (i.e., a water budget).*

### 4.1.1 Landscape design

4.1.1.1 Option 1 – Turfgrass shall not exceed 40 percent of the landscapable area.

4.1.1.2 Option 2 – Landscape design shall be developed using the water budget tool based on a 70 percent evapotranspiration adjustment factor.

4.1.2 Turfgrass – Turfgrass shall not be installed in strips less than 4 feet wide.

4.1.3 Slopes – Plantings other than turfgrass shall be installed on slopes in excess of 4 feet of horizontal run per 1 foot vertical rise (4:1).

Two things should JUMP right off the page at you, "Turfgrass shall not exceed 40 percent of the landscapable area," and "Plantings other than turfgrass shall be installed on slopes." There are plenty of other shocking requirements in the program, but these two are really stunning. No more 40% ???!! No grass on slopes = EROSION????!! Grass is an excellent stabilizer of slopes and in most parts of the country, healthy turfgrass provides so many benefits compared to mulched or rocked areas or impervious surfaces. That's the biggest problem I have with this proposal is that it tries to fit one rule to all landscapes, all grass types, all climates, and in all parts of the country.

You can read the WHOLE specification here; [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/home\\_rev-draftspec508.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/home_rev-draftspec508.pdf)

To make you feel better the EPA will tell you that this is just a "VOLUNTARY" program and that it is not meant to be enforceable or binding. But we have already heard of several municipalities, townships, home-owner's associations, and cities who are considering mandating this program.

### EPA Comment Period

Again, you can read more about the Revised Draft for the Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification at <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/homes.htm>. On that page you will also find the information needed to contact the EPA. The EPA is interested in hearing from you. Please send any comments or suggestions regarding the revised draft specification materials to [watersense-newhomes@erg.com](mailto:watersense-newhomes@erg.com). All comments become a part of the public record.

They have a form on their website that you can use to make it easier for you and for them to process your feedback. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/homes.htm> and at near the bottom there is a paragraph that has the link for the [Template for Public Comment Submission \(MS Word\)](#). From the paragraph on the EPA site, "You may either download and save this document template and directly insert your comments, or attach your comments in your own document, provided that you clearly reference the text/section in question, your recommended changes, and why you think these changes are needed."

I hope you all take some time to contact the EPA and let them know how you think the specifications should be written. (Rodney St. John)

## Hot, Hot, Hot

With the heat indices above 100, I probably scared most of you away by talking about more heat in the title. But, I have put together some thoughts based upon some of the emails and phone calls I've received lately and most of them revolve around high temperatures and water. Let's get started.

### Cool, Rain, Rain, Cool, Now Blistering Hot

That's how I'd describe the first 6 months of this year for a majority of Kansans. That might be perfect weather if you are originally from Washington or Oregon, but it is not ideal weather for grass in Kansas.

For the most part, during this period of cool, rainy weather, the cool-season grasses looked great (on the upside). The temperatures were near optimal for cool-season growth, and things seem to be great. For warm-season grasses, the cool, wet weather slowed everything down. Zoysias and Bermudass were slow to green up and slow to start spreading out to cover last winter's damage.

While it seems like the weather was perfect for cool-season grasses, there are some problems with this type of weather (I alluded to it above.) All that rain that many of us received probably shortened the root system of many turf areas. Why? Cool-season grasses should thrive in cool temperatures and plenty of rainfall, right? The key word is *plenty*, not heavy or frequent. Normally in the spring, we receive periods of rainy days and periods of sunny dry days. Those dry periods help dry the soil out. And we need the soil to dry a little bit for two reasons: Oxygen and Root Depth.

#### Oxygen

I think most people realize that the main functions of plant roots are to anchor the plant to the ground, and absorb water and nutrients from the soil. However, many people don't realize that to perform those functions, the roots need air to breathe, and they get that air from the soil. So, if the soil is receiving frequent rainfall (or irrigation), the soil becomes saturated and there is no air in the soil. This saturation problem becomes even worse on compacted-clay soils. On compacted soils, the number and size of the pores/spaces for air is reduced, causing problems regardless if the soil is wet or not. When compacted soils are over-irrigated or receive too frequent rains, it becomes much easier to saturate the soil and fill up those air-holding spaces.

I like to tell people to think of the soil as a sponge and you as a root. Placing your mouth on a dry sponge and trying to breathe should not be too hard. Air will flow relatively freely through the sponge to your mouth. But if you saturate the sponge in a bucket of water and then place your mouth to the sponge, it becomes very difficult, probably impossible to breathe. The same thing happens in the soil. With too frequent rainfall or too frequent irrigation, the soil becomes too wet and the air spaces become filled with water and the roots suffocate. Roots need air to breathe and grow.

#### Root Depth

Obviously, one can imagine that plants with suffocating roots will have short root systems near the surface of the soil. But even if the rainfall or irrigation is not so heavy that it saturates the soil and suffocates the roots, light frequent rainfall or irrigation will cause shortened root systems too. How? Roots usually grow to where the water is. If the surface or top few inches of the soil is wet all the time from frequent rainfall or irrigation, the roots will have no need or desire to grow deeper into the soil to seek out the moisture. If there is enough time (days) between rain or irrigation events, the surface of the soil will begin to dry out and the roots will grow deeper seeking that moisture that is down deep in the soil. Plants that have a long and deep root system, now have a much larger/deeper slice of soil that they can derive water from.

I like analogies. Think of grass with a short root system like grass growing on a thin baking sheet. Now, think of growing grass on a five gallon bucket. That will represent grass with a deep root system. The five gallon bucket of soil will hold much more water and sustain the grass for a much longer time when the rains or irrigation stops and the temperature increases.

#### What Now?

We want deep roots and that requires water and air, and proper air and water movement into the soil. So let's talk about what to do now and what you should have done or what you should do in the future to help with situations like this. First, you should be alleviating compaction. Compacted soils have less air space and therefore have a shortened root system from the start. Adding frequent rain or irrigation only exacerbates the problem. For cool-season grasses, aerify in the fall and/or spring, depending on traffic levels. In other words, try not to aerify during or immediately before periods of high temperatures and low rainfall. That could stress the grass out more and lead to more injury and possibly death.

Second, is to probe. Get a soil probe so that you can remove a soil sample and see the roots so that you can watch and monitor the depth of your root system. By monitoring your root depth periodically throughout the growing season, you will see when your grass is 'growing in a baking sheet or growing in a five gallon bucket.' Moreover, monitoring the root depth over a period of years and with a variety of environmental conditions will help you to gauge how your grass is performing and how it might perform in tomorrow's weather forecast. So, now you know what to do next time, but what about right now? Continue to probe. Check your root system. If you live in one of the areas of the state that received the cool, wet weather and your root system seems short, you're going to have to spend more time monitoring that turf area for drought stress. (Cont. on page 7)



## KGCSA Research Tournament

A big THANK YOU to Rick Farrant, David Charles, Ron Rindt, and the staff at Berkshire GC in Topeka for hosting the **25<sup>th</sup> Annual KGCSA Professional Development & Research Tournament** on June 1 which raises money for turfgrass research and education at KSU.

1<sup>st</sup> place—Van Wall Equipment Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> place—Turkey Creek GC  
3<sup>rd</sup> place—Helena

*Please support the following companies that support us!*

### HOLE SPONSORS

Bayer & Greenkeeper  
CPS Professional Products  
Estes & Cleary Chemical  
E-Z Go  
Flatt Golf Services  
Floratine Midwest  
Grass Pad  
HAGCSA  
Helena  
Hydrologic  
Industrial Sales  
Jesco Products  
John Deere Golf  
Johnston Seed  
Kansas Golf & Turf  
M & M Golf Cars  
Monsanto  
PBI Gordon  
Pump Station Service  
Redexim Turf Products  
RMI Golf Cars  
Supreme Turf & Earthworks  
The Andersons  
Topeka Sod Farm  
Turf Prof. Equipment Co.  
Van Wall Equipment Co.  
Wildcat Golf

### ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

Becker Underwood  
Commercial Turf  
Ewing Irrigation  
Kansas City Turf  
Lebanon Turf Products  
Midwest Laser Leveling  
Midwest Pump & Control  
ProSource One  
Reinders  
Sharp Seed  
Syngenta  
Valent USA  
Williams Lawn Seed

**Thanks** also to:

The **25 teams** participating

**Standard Golf**  
for donating the flags

**Kansas Golf & Turf**  
for donating 20 golf carts

### AUCTION DONORS

Alvamar CC	Manhattan CC
Art & Mary's	Matt Miller
Ballards	Prairie Dunes CC
Bayer	Prairie Trails GC
Carey Park GC	Sand Creek GC
Cherry Oaks GC	Shadow Glen GC
Crestview CC	Shawnee CC
Cypress Ridge GC	Smoky Hill CC
Earthworks	Supreme Turf
E-Z Go	Terradyne CC
Flint Hills Ntl. GC	Topeka CC
Floratine Midwest	Topeka Sod Farm
Golf USA	Turf Prof. Equip.
Grass Pad	Van Diest
Helena	Van Wall Equip.
Home Depot	Wamego CC
Hummert	Waters TruValue
Hydrologic	Westheffer
John Deere Golf	Wichita CC
Ledgestone GC	Winfield CC

## Pruning Storm Damaged Trees



Summer storms may cause serious tree damage. Often you will have to decide whether a tree can be saved or not. Here is a checklist on care of a storm-damaged landscape.

1. Be safe. Check for downed power lines or hanging branches. Don't venture under the tree until it is safe. If large limbs are hanging precariously, a certified arborist has the tools, training and knowledge to do the work safely.
2. Cleanup. Remove debris so you don't trip over it.
3. Decide whether it is feasible to save a tree. If the bark has been split so the cambium is exposed or the main trunk split, the tree probably will not survive and should be removed. If there are so many broken limbs that the tree's form is destroyed, replacement is the best option. Top ping, where all the main branches are cut and there are only stubs left, is not a recommended pruning procedure. Though new branches will normally arise from the stubs, they are not as firmly attached as the original branches and more likely to break in subsequent storms. Also, the tree must use a lot of energy to develop new branches, leaving less to fight off diseases and insect attacks. Often, the topped tree's life is shortened.
4. Prune broken branches to the next larger branch or to the trunk. If cutting back to the trunk, do not cut flush with the trunk but rather at the collar area between the branch and the trunk. Cutting flush with the trunk leaves a much larger wound than cutting at the collar and takes longer to heal. Middle-aged or younger vigorous trees can have up to one-third of the crown removed and still make a surprisingly swift comeback.
5. Take large limbs off in stages. If you try to take off a large limb in one cut, it will often break before the cut is finished and strip bark from the tree. Instead, first make a cut about 15 inches from the trunk. Start from the bottom and cut one-third of the way up through the limb. Make the second cut from the top down but start 2 inches further away from the trunk than the first. The branch will break away as you make the second cut. The third cut, made at the collar area, removes the stub that is left. Note: Pruning can be dangerous. Consider hiring a trained arborist to do major work such as this. Also, a good arborist knows how to prune trees so that storm breakage is less likely to occur. Preventing damage is better than trying to fix it once it has happened. The Arbor Day Foundation maintains an excellent Web site that contains detailed information. The URL is: <http://www.arborday.org/media/stormindex.cfm> (Ward Upham)

## Online Registration for Turfgrass Field Day

The Turf and Ornamentals Field Day this year is at the John C. Pair Facility in Wichita, KS on August 6. As usual, the field day at the John C. Pair facility has more presentations and tour stops detailing the excellent tree and ornamental research taking place there. So this year is a great year to get the latest on turf *and* ornamental research. You can read more about, get tour descriptions, and register for the Field Day at [www.KSUTurf.com/FieldDay.html](http://www.KSUTurf.com/FieldDay.html).

The Kansas Turfgrass Foundation has a website. It is at [www.KansasTurfgrassFoundation.org](http://www.KansasTurfgrassFoundation.org) Check it out and let us know what you think of it.

Along with the new site, the KTF can now accept credit card payments and can also accept registrations and credit card payments online. You can register for Field Day online by starting at [KSUTurf.com](http://KSUTurf.com) or the KTF site and going to the Field Day pages, or you can go right to our storefront page at [www.KansasTurfgrassFoundation.org/Store/](http://www.KansasTurfgrassFoundation.org/Store/) (the link is case sensitive so type it in exactly as shown).

I look forward to seeing all of you at Field Day, hopefully with cooler weather! (Rodney St. John)



**KGCSA Research Tournament Hosts** at Berkshire GC (L to R) David Charles, Golf Course Superintendent, Rick Farrant, Owner, and Ron Rindt, General Manager.

## Rain, Brown Patch, Waterlogged Soil

Splish, splash. Just about everybody has gotten some rain the past few weeks. Rain, humidity, and nighttime lows in the upper 60's and 70's = more brown patch conditions. Slime molds will probably be crawling in, too. Though harmless, they can have a big freak-out factor. Oh, after 1.5 inches poured down in about an hour the other night, I took a stroll around the neighborhood. And, guess what? There were some sprinkler systems running. *Sigh...*

### Summer Stress

Summer stress is ALWAYS a problem for cool-season turf here in Kansas, and it's even more of a problem when spring root growth has been compromised, such as when conditions were overly wet and/or cool. Too much water = lack of oxygen = unhealthy roots which cannot function properly.

In the heat of summer, waterlogged soils are particularly damaging because water holds heat and then soil temps can surge. Studies have been conducted here at KSU and elsewhere to show that overly wet soils absorb and retain heat which can then damage roots of cool-season grasses.

This issue extends to other plants, too. I've been getting a lot of questions, samples, and phone calls ranging from turf to tomatoes to shrubs where wet spring soils led to root decline, and now that the heat is here, the plants just can't take it.

Soil temps at 4-inches are hovering around 80, which means roots of cool-season grasses won't grow (tends to cease > 77 degrees). The warm-season grasses love soil temps of 75-85, for root growth.

### Golf Course: Syringing vs. Handwatering? What's the difference?

Got hot spots? Below are links to two short articles on syringing and handwatering. The first is from Karl Dannenberger (Ohio State University) showing the impact of syringing, the second from David Kopec (University of Arizona) discussing syringing vs. handwatering.

<http://www.turfgrasstrends.com/turfgrasstrends/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=99488>

<http://ag.arizona.edu/turf/ccps699.htm>

(Megan Kennelly)



The turf is clearly not happy to be in this puddle. This is fairway height Kentucky bluegrass at our research facility. Hot + wet = problems.



Water piles up in this backyard, which is a low spot. Clay soils don't help the situation.



Same yard, different view. The drainage needs to be addressed before a healthy stand of turf can grow. (By the way, this is MY backyard. Luckily the front does *not* turn into a pond during heavy rains).

## HAGCSA Scholarship & Research Tournament

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual HAGCSA Scholarship & Research Tournament was held June 15 at Oakwood CC in Kansas City, raising money for scholarships and turfgrass research at K-State and the University of Missouri. Thanks to Jeff Elmer Superintendent, his staff, and Oakwood CC for hosting this event. We appreciate the support the HAGCSA gives to our program.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place—Van Wall Equipment Co.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place—Alvamar CC
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place—John Deere Golf



Jeff Elmer, Golf Course Superintendent



Todd Bohn, S&R Chairman (R) presents the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy to Van Wall Equipment Company.

### Mark the Dates!

**Kansas Turfgrass Conference  
December 8, 9 & 10, 2009**

**Topeka, KS**

## Hot, Hot, Hot (continued)

Putting greens and other short-mowed high-maintenance turf will probably require more handwatering and syringing. For all turf areas, you will probably need to scout more frequently to monitor for drought stress. Turf areas with short root systems will require more frequent irrigation to prevent damage and death.

With shortened root-systems, the grasses will more easily become stressed and stressed grasses can lead to more disease. You will probably want to keep a closer eye on your turf and increase your disease scouting as part of your IPM disease management program.

With a little more love and care, and probably a lot more 'hands-on' attention to monitoring and alleviating drought stress, we should be able to make it through the summer OK. (Oh, it would help if someone could place an order for some cooler temperatures. I'm sure our grass and our stress level would definitely improve. Thanks in advance. This heat is oppressive.) *(Rodney St. John)*

### Equipment Dealers that Support K-State Turf Research

#### Excel Sales

Out-front Rotary Mower

#### Kansas Golf & Turf

Cushman Truckster

#### RMI Golf Cars

Golf Cart

#### Turf Professionals Equipment

Toro Triplex Greensmower

Out-front Rotary mower

#### Van Wall Equipment Co./John Deere

John Deere Triplex Tee Mower

If your company is interested in supporting K-State turfgrass research by providing equipment,  
contact Jack Fry at (785) 532-1430.

## **KTF Founders Society Members**

*Bayer Environmental Science*  
*Flint Hills National Golf Club*  
*Floratine Midwest*  
*Gard'N Wise*  
*Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Assn.*  
*Kanscapes, Inc.*  
*Kansas City Country Club*  
*Kansas Golf Association*  
*Kansas Golf Course Superintendents Assn.*  
*McPherson College*  
*Prairie Dunes Country Club*  
*Professional Grounds Management Society*  
*Royal Seeds*  
*Ryan Lawn & Tree*  
*Syngenta*  
*Don Tannahill (retired)*  
*Turf Professionals Equipment*  
*Williams Lawn Seed*

A \$1,000 contribution (at once, or in installments) is all that is required to become a KTF Founder. Our goal is to recruit a total of 100 Founders over the next several years. These funds are untouched with hope that one day accumulated interest will help to support turfgrass research.

For more information on becoming a member of the Kansas Turfgrass Founders Society, please contact Jack Fry, Horticulture Division, Throckmorton Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. (785) 532-1430. [jfry@ksu.edu](mailto:jfry@ksu.edu)