

Remembering Keith Happ

The USGA lost one of its best on Oct. 27. Keith A. Happ, former director of the Green Section's Central Region, passed away in Columbus, Ohio surrounded by his family. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on Oct. 7, 1957, to George W. and Joan Rae (Martin) Happ. He is survived by his wife, Mary Beth (Lapa) Happ; sons, Christopher and Ian; brothers, George and Kenneth; sister, Pamela; and an extended family.

Keith started his USGA career on Jan. 4, 1993, working as an agronomist in the Mid-Atlantic Region alongside Stan Zontek and Bob Brame, later joined by Darin Bevard. He opened a sub-regional office in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 2000. After accepting the position of director of the North Central Region in April 2013 (name changed to the Central Region in 2014), he based his operations in Columbus, Ohio. Throughout his 22-year career he freely shared his agronomic expertise with the USGA and the golf industry. He authored numerous articles published in the *Green Section Record* magazine and he was an active member of the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee.

"Keith set a standard of excellence for the entire Green Section staff. As an agronomist, he prided himself on keeping up with the latest research to share with golf facilities. He took his role as an educator and an advisor very seriously and always worked to provide the most thorough advice possible. As a colleague, he was the consummate professional with a dedicated work ethic. We all benefited from working alongside someone with such commitment, integrity and friendship that he offered," said Kimberly Erusha, managing director of the Green Section. "Keith never failed to combine his outstanding intellect with a dry wit and unfailing consideration for the feelings of others."

Before joining the USGA, Keith worked at a number of Ohio golf courses and actively volunteered time with the Northern Ohio Superintendents Association. He was a proud graduate of The Ohio State University.

Memorial contributions may be made to the OSUWMC Integrative Zen Therapy Fund, Medical Center Development and Alumni Affairs, 660 Ackerman Rd., 6th Floor, P.O. Box 183112, Columbus, Ohio, a program that gave Keith great comfort, or to The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute ([Web Link](#)). Messages of support for his family may be left online at www.schoedinger.com or directed to the USGA Central Region office at: 3070 Riverside Drive, Suite 125, Columbus, OH 43221.



Trees and Golf Courses

The Right Tree In The Right Location

By David A. Oatis, regional director, Northeast Region



Understanding the origins of tree use on golf courses will help solve tree problems on your golf course. We climbed trees as youngsters and built forts in them. We enjoy their fruit, their foliage and their fall color. We use their wood to build homes and furniture; and once upon a time, their wood was even used to make golf clubs. So how can trees possibly be bad for golf courses? In order to gain a thorough understanding of the problems that trees pose to turfgrass and golf courses, it is important to understand a little about the history of golf in the United States and the history of tree usage on golf courses.

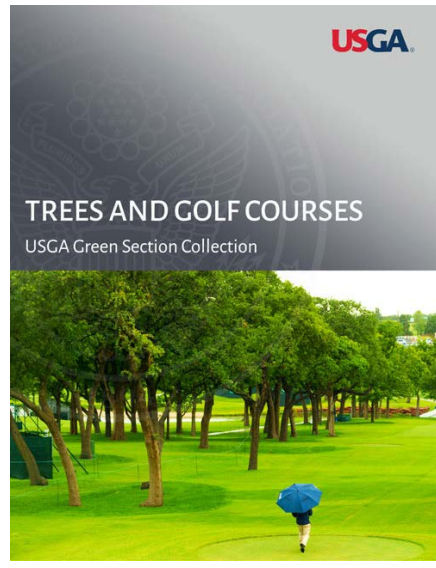
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DIGITAL COLLECTION: Trees and Golf Courses

The USGA *Green Section Record* now includes an interactive digital collection of supporting materials. In addition to the major article, each digital collection includes supporting articles, a photo gallery and videos that provide additional, relevant information on the subject.

The collections can be viewed online in a user-friendly digital magazine format, saved as a PDF or printed. We hope you find this new feature to be a useful resource.

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REGIONAL UPDATES

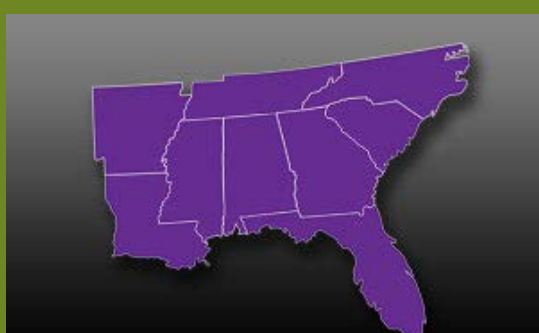
The USGA Green Section is divided into four regions staffed by agronomists who work with golf facilities on care of the golf course. USGA agronomists provide regular regional updates outlining current issues and observations from the field. Be sure to view updates from multiple regions as featured ideas, techniques and solutions to problems often apply to other parts of the country.



NORTHEAST REGION

With cool air and shorter days it is evident that fall has arrived. While the brilliant fall foliage is aesthetically pleasing, it also should serve as a reminder to begin implementing some of these practices to prepare for winter.

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SOUTHEAST REGION

Do record-setting king tides have you heading for the hills? They also can be affecting the turf conditions at your golf course. Saltwater intrusion and localized flooding potential can have serious impacts that should be considered.

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WEST REGION

Making decisions about removing trees often is an emotional and controversial topic. However, removing trees can improve playability and turf health. With proper planning and advice from experts, one course effectively communicated the benefits of selective tree removal.

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CENTRAL REGION

Winterization is an essential practice to protect irrigation systems at many courses in northern climates, but when incorrectly done it can cause significant damage. Learn the proper steps to prepare your irrigation system for winter and some helpful tips when it comes time to recharge during spring.

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