Taking the Nuisance out of Nuisance Wildlife Control

By R. Tucker Mostrom

ow that the grass has stopped growing, the leaves have fallen, and the fruit bearing trees and shrubs are for the most part bare, the very species of wildlife that we work so hard to protect turn on us. They develop seasonal behavior that can truly ruin a golf course superintendent’s whole day. By providing greenspace, preserving woodland and tall grass habitat, and maintaining healthy groundcover, shrubs and ornamental trees, superintendents have crafted the perfect wildlife magnet to draw deer, crows, 'coon, fox, squirrel, groundhog, goose, et al onto the golf course from surrounding properties. Golfers and superintendents alike enjoy glimpses of these furry and feathered neighbors throughout the warmer months. In the late fall and winter months, however, the young leave their nests, dens, and warrens and strike out on their own. Hibernating species gorge at ground level to fatten up. Migrating birds settle in the open areas near water and forage, and larger herbivores tramp all over the golf course in search of the soft succulent ornamental shrubs and trees that will sustain them until the spring greenup. Much of this behavior results in damage to the golf course at a time when it is incapable of healing itself. What is a superintendent to do?

Nuisance wildlife control is a simple, sometimes protracted effort to counter the seasonal forces of nature. This process is effective in dealing with the scattering of trash, the trampling of turf in delicate, sometimes frosty areas, the natural pruning of the foliage, the dropping of guano, and sundry gnawing, scratching, scraping, and burrowing. To start this process, take a few easy steps on your own toward understanding these natural forces. The answer to your problem may even become almost self-evident.

1. Understand the Damage: Is the hole on your green from the pecking of a bird, the digging of a squirrel, fox or rodent, or the footsteps of a deer or large dog? Does it occur nocturnally or diurnally? Are there any tracks in the area for identification?

2. Understand the Behavior Behind this Damage: Is the animal looking for food—what is this animal’s food and is there a source nearby. Is the animal hiding food (squirrels burying nuts in your USGA green rootzone)? Is the animal a permanent resident or a passer-through? Why is the animal crossing the property in this particular place? Is there evidence of predators that might be following or stalking this animal?

3. Create a Plan of Action: Determine whether to protect the affected area, prevent the damaging behavior, or act against the animal(s) itself. Ensure that this plan is in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations and carries the blessing of the course owner or governing body.

4. Implement, Evaluate, Adjust & Reevaluate: Trial and error are still the best method. Remember that animal behavior changes to adapt—your control may also need to evolve to remain effective.

5. Seek Advice, Especially Professional Advice: Don’t be a prisoner of your ignorance. Golf course superintendents are not zoologists by nature. There are naturalists, conservationists, private enthusiasts and government agencies whose expertise can give you a real boost up the learning curve. Try:

- Local chapters of the Sierra Club and the Izaak Walton League, hunting and conservationist groups, and animal rescue shelters
- Other local superintendents, InAgOnline, GCSAA and other

(Continued on page 5)
President's Message

Bill Shirk, CGCS

As this will be my last chance to address the membership through the Turfgrass Matters, I have several topics to review in this issue.

First of all, I would like to thank each of our Host Superintendents and Host Clubs for their outstanding service to our membership for our monthly meeting sites. Everyone of you should be very proud of a job well done. The commitment you made to serve our Association set a great example of how to host a membership meeting. Thanks again!

Secondly, I would like to relate some of my experiences while serving on the MAAGCS's Board of Directors for several years. When I was asked by Mr. Bill Neus, CGCS, to run for election to serve on the Board of Directors, I felt that it was time for me to give something back to the Association -- that being my time and effort to strengthen the MAAGCS. The MAAGCS has provided a real service for all of its members.

In addition, I thought that some modifications needed to be made for the MAAGCS to advance in the 90's and into the next millennium. I have always believed that than complaining about something it was better to become involved and make the change accordingly!

The first major change that I felt needed to be accomplished was a Golf Chairman was to change the Clare Emery Trophy to the President's Cup. Even though the Clare Emery Trophy served us well for many years I strongly believed that our Superintendent-Pro Tournament was the MAAGCS's Tournament, and we should be commemorating our own members. What better way to honor our Past Presidents for their hard work and many years of service than through our largest tournament of the year.

Secondly, our Newsletter was a subject that bothered me for many years. It was the second major change that I felt was necessary. I always believed that the MAAGCS could generate a better publication. Over the years as a Board member, I found that it wasn’t going to be simple to change.

In spite of all of the hard work by several Board members, upgrading the Newsletter wasn’t going to be easy. After the dreadful experience the Board encountered from hiring a management company in 1995, all of the Board members and I theorized that 1996 was going to be a year of reform and would be the best opportunity for making improvements to our Newsletter. Through the great efforts of Chris Ayers and his committee, the entire Association and I can be very proud of the MAAGCS's Newsletter. There have been some other minor changes since I have been on the Board, but the Clare Emery Trophy and the MAAGCS's Newsletter were my major concerns.

After serving on this Board for several years, I can assure the Membership that every decision made by the Board is carefully thought about before being voted on and the well being of the Association is always the principal concern before any action is taken on the Board level. I would like to thank all of the 1996 Directors. At the beginning of 1996, in our first Directors' meeting I told each member what would be expected of them and that nothing less than 100% effort would be acceptable. All of the directors responded by giving the MAAGCS and me much more than that! Again, thanks for holding up under all my demands. I am very proud of the entire Board!

In closing, I would like to say that over the years as a Director, I have met some great people and feel fortunate to have been able to work with them for a common cause. I am also fortunate to have made some outstanding friends. These are some of the greatest rewards one can receive from serving on the MAAGCS's Board of Directors, and I encourage all Members to support the MAAGCS by serving on the Board or hosting a meeting.

Thanks to the entire Membership for your support in 1996. It truly was a great year!

Bill Shirk, CGCS
President

Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents
P.O Box 4465
Lutherville, MD 21094 4465
For Message/Fax:
(800) 726-6501 or (410) 825-4653

For Newsletter Questions or Comments Contact: Turfgrass Matters
c/o Chris Ayers
Lakewood Country Club
13901 Glen Mill Road

Turfgrass Matters
Committee

Chris Ayers
Editor

Dean Graves R. Tucker Mostrom
Bruce Cadenelli Kevin Pryeski
Doug Fleming Lentz Wheeler
From the Editor

his issue of Turfgrass Matters marks the end of the 1996 newsletter and bulletin campaign. As a whole, I am very pleased with the quality and appearance of this year's publications. In January, the Board set out to improve the newsletter and I firmly believe that we accomplished that goal from the very first issue. Producing this newsletter has required a shocking amount of time and hard work, both from the newsletter committee and those who took the time to contribute material.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the help of my assistant, Tucker Mostrom, who deserves a tremendous amount of credit for any success we have had. He was extremely helpful with the editing and computer-related skills required in the production of the newsletter. Others were just as indispensable throughout the year, notably Dean Graves, Bruce Cadenelli and Lynn Matson. These three gentlemen contributed and generated feature articles that spoke from within our association. I extend my most sincere thanks as well to all the monthly hosts who provided excellent background on their clubs and careers for the meeting site histories and superintendent profiles.

My biggest challenge as Director of Communications was not simply improving the newsletter, but figuring out how to pay for the changes and improvements that were mandated by the Board. In the end, the solution was quite simple. By producing a quality publication, we created a more attractive advertising opportunity for our commercial members. And many of our suppliers and service partners did just that! My thanks to all of the companies who used Turfgrass Matters and the bulletin to advertise to the MAAGCS members. The 1997 advertising program will be in the mail sometime in December. It closely resembles last year's with one major change. In an effort to streamline operations, all newsletter and directory advertising will be managed through one program.

Our biggest goal for improvement next year, aside from better “on-time-performance,” will be increasing the “local flavor” of our newsletter. By listing some prospective topics in Turfgrass Matters and more actively soliciting authors for articles, I hope to enlist your aid in meeting this goal. To that end, if any of you would like to contribute an article or just have an idea for one, please do not hesitate to contact me. Educating the membership with voices from within MAAGCS is a primary goal of Turfgrass Matters.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to contact us throughout the year. Your comments and suggestions greatly helped and supported us in providing the membership with a quality newsletter. On behalf of the newsletter committee, have an enjoyable holiday season.

Chris Ayers
Director of Communication

Sixty years after our doors first opened we still live by one rule: "Sell the finest equipment made and back it up with the best parts and service support possible."

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comfort. Whatever your challenge on the golf course, we have the experience and products to help you do your job better, faster, and easier.

We thank you for making sixty years of growth possible and promise to keep our pledge to you.

Best wishes for 1996 from everyone at G.L. Cornell.

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60th ANNIVERSARY

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1921 - 1996

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GCSAA Web Site Links Media with the Sources

How can a superintendent affect the speed of play? What is the impact of using effluent water for irrigation purposes? What policies do golf courses have on alternative or soft spikes? How are golf courses prepared for tournament play?

The media can find the answers to these questions and a myriad of others on the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) internet Web site. The GCSAA Information Services Department has long been a source of data for the media, but a new feature puts journalists directly in touch with superintendents. In addition to finding information on a variety of golf course management topics, media representatives will now be able to pose questions to superintendents via the members-only GCSAA area of the GCSAA Web site.

Media inquiries can be submitted to the GCSAA media/public relations department, which will in turn be posted on the site. Member superintendents then have the ability respond to the media directly, or through GCSAA staff.

“GCSAA has always been thorough and current in providing a wealth of information on a variety of subjects, whether it be to the membership, media or public,” GCSAA director and public relations committee chairman R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, said. “This service takes that capability to the next level. There may be an issue for which no study has been completed, or there may be a question that may need a personal case study — such as the ongoing debate over soft spikes. Now the media can access the experts, the golf course superintendents, for the most accurate and pertinent information. We believe this is a significant, user-friendly service to the media.”

Along with the ability to question superintendents, the site also provides news to the media through other vehicles. Tournament Fact Sheets, which preview the course and its personnel, are included in the “Golfer’s Corner” section of the public area. These fact sheets are compiled for all USGA, PGA, PGA Tour (regular, Senior, Nike) and LPGA events. GCSAA news releases and media advisories can also be found on the public area in the “News” section, under “GCSAA News.”

To post a question on the GCSAA Web site, please contact Media/Public Relations Manager Jeff Bollig or Public Relations Specialist Kristi Frey at 800-472-7878 (ext. 430 or 608), via fax at 913/832-4433 or by e-mail media@gcsaa.org. The site, launched in May 1996, features public and members-only areas. The site can be found at http://www.gcsaa.org, and has had more than 250,000 hits combined in June, July and August.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas, the association provides education, information and representation to more than 16,700 individual members from more than 60 countries. GCSAA’s mission is to serve its members, advance their profession, and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

Reprinted with Permission from GCSAA News Release, October 23, 1996
Wildlife
Continued from page 1

internet sites where your concerns can be posted and responded to by others in our profession who have been in a similar predicament before

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control Program Nuisance Wildlife Information Line (800) 442-0708
- Your state's agency for natural resource preservation (Maryland's Dept. of Natural Resources, Virginia's Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries, etc.) in the governmental "blue" pages of the phone book.
- Your local or county animal control office ("dog-catcher"). The USDA Nuisance Wildlife Information Line specialists can refer you to a local contractor who works to control your type of damage. Your state agent must issue permits for any animals confined or removed by you or your contractor out-of-season. Your local agents will be most conversant with any statutes that might prevent certain actions against specific species or in specific areas.

6. Hire a Professional: Local nuisance wildlife contractors or "cooperators" specialize in identifying damage, excluding or removing the culprits, and recommending ongoing actions to control or prevent wildlife damage. They have the equipment, expertise, and vaccinations to safely, intelligently and humanely decrease your golf course losses due to nuisance wildlife. They can be contracted case-by-case or perhaps on an ongoing basis depending on your needs. Since some of your nuisance species are desirable furbearers (fox, raccoon, muskrat, coyote, bobcat, ...), you may be able to lower the price of their work in return for access to some of your pond shores, out-of-play woodlands and transition areas during furbearer season.

The environmental movement in the 1990's has veered somewhat away from protecting each and every animal, plant, tree and snail-darter toward establishing some sort of natural balance. Man must be figured into this balance as the protector and disrupter that he is. The government desires to protect birds, furbearers and game alike, but not to the exclusion of all other concerns. Damage to your course is expensive and not always in the best interest of the species involved. Build an ongoing relationship with your wildlife specialists as you would your turf extension agent. Educate them about what you do to impact the local wildlife positively. Your willingness to work within their guidelines can only enhance their enthusiasm to educate you and help you with any further or recurring damage down the road.

Tucker is the Assistant Superintendent under Chris Ayers at Lakewood Country Club in Rockville, MD

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A special thank you goes to Tom Tuttle and his staff at River Downs Golfers Club for the fine condition they had their facility in for our Annual Championship. Not only did they prepare for us in early October, but they had to do it again later in the month due to heavy rains washing out the first attempt. Tom, thanks for a job well done!

The KEN BAKER AWARD for the gross champion went to Jim McHenry, and Bill Shirk won the ANGELO CAMMARATO AWARD as our net champion. Jim carded an 81, gross and Bill finished with a 76 net. Congratulations to both!

The results from the tournament are:

**NET:**
- 1st Bill Shirk 76
- 2nd Bill Neus 76
- 3rd Scott Wagner 78
- 4th Dave Osterhouse 80
- 5th Mike Evans 80
- 6th Tom Tuttle 80
- 7th Ken Ingram 81

**Gross:**
- 1st Jim McHenry 81
- 2nd Jeff Vance 83
- 3rd Brendon O'Rourke 83
- 4th Glenn Smickle 87
- 5th John Newcomb Sr. 89
- 6th Ed Cashman 92
- 7th Steve Cohoon 92

**NOTE:** All ties were broken by a match of cards from the #1 handicap hole.

In the Association Division, Keith Pitchford won the low gross prize with a score of 90 and Todd Cowing won the net honors with a 78.

The fun prizes and corresponding sponsors were:

**Closest to Pin Sponsors**
- Bill Shirk
- Brian Stricker
- Ben Stagg
- John Newcomb Sr.
- Sam Kessel
- Walter Montross

**Long Drive**
- CTP #5: FinchTurf Services
- CTP #9: Egypt Farms
- CTP #12: Turf Equip. & Supply
- CTP #16: Loft's Seed
- CTP #1: O.M. Scotts

I would also like to thank G.L. Cornell and Turf Equipment & Supply for sponsoring our Gross and Net Division Prizes. Thanks to all our sponsors and congratulations to all the winners.

On October 15, the Maryland Turfgrass Council held its 8th Annual Golf Tournament for Turf Research. Mike Gilmore and Turf Valley Country Club hosted this year's event over their North courses. Tournament Chairman Ryland Chapman reported that the course was in excellent shape for the tournament as 80 players competed for the Angelo Cammarota Award. This year's tournament was also supported by 32 hole sponsors and 100 attendees for dinner. The winners of this year's event were appropriately Dave Cammarota, Nick Cammarota, Ray Bowman and Dean Snyder with a fine round of -26. Congratulations gentlemen.

The 17th Annual MET Tournament was held on October 21 at Maryland Golf & C.C. with Donn Dietrich CGCS as our host. This is the first year this event has been held in our area. Team Members Bill Shirk, Scott Wagner, Paul Brandon, Jim McHenry, Nick Vance, Walter Montross, Ken Braun and Donn Dietrich finished 4th overall. Congratulations guys and thanks Donn for a job well done.

Our November golf outing was played at Caves Valley Golf Club. Our thanks go to Bruch Cadelli and his staff, the course was in great shape! The weather was a bit brisk with wind chills in the teens and twenties, but 65 players braved the elements to play this great layout.

The winners (other than Mother Nature) were:

**Net:**
- 1st Dean Graves 68
- 2nd Tom Tuttle 69
- 3rd Charlie Ulevich 71
- 4th Dave Fairbanks 74
- 5th Bob Wren 75
- 6th Jeff Facto 75
- 7th Steve Cohoon 76
- 8th Paul Novak 77

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Last winter, most Mid-Atlantic superintendents were frantically plowing one step ahead of the season’s record snows. Dr. Kevin Mathias of the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture and Keith Williams, one of his students in the Golf Course Management Program, took advantage of the lulls between the storms to conduct a survey of conditions and practices prevalent in the Mid-Atlantic golf course industry. Their results provide informative comparison for each golf course superintendent as he (or she) evaluates the past year and prepares for the future. Some of the following graphics are taken directly from the survey, while others were drawn from the text. A fuller breakdown of the data and a description of the survey’s goals, method, and philosophy are included in the full report from Keith Williams.

### 1995 Annual Average Golf Course Operating Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>18-Hole Course (Overall)</th>
<th>18-Hole Course (Private)</th>
<th>18-Hole Course (Semi-Private)</th>
<th>18-Hole Course (Daily Fee)</th>
<th>27-Hole Course (Overall)</th>
<th>36-Hole Course (Overall)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995 ANNUAL</td>
<td>$515,000</td>
<td>$542,000</td>
<td>$405,000</td>
<td>$455,000</td>
<td>$738,000</td>
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### 1995 Annual Water Usage (Gallons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>18-Hole Course (Overall)</th>
<th>18-Hole Course (Private)</th>
<th>18-Hole Course (Semi-Private)</th>
<th>18-Hole Course (Daily Fee)</th>
<th>27-Hole Course (Overall)</th>
<th>36-Hole Course (Overall)</th>
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<td>1995 ANNUAL</td>
<td>$17,297,000</td>
<td>$17,300,000</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
<td>$19,400,000</td>
<td>$42,375,000</td>
<td>$37,467,000</td>
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### Average Staffing Levels

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<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Full Time</th>
<th>Seasonal</th>
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<tr>
<td>18-Hole Course</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Hole Course</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-Hole Course</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preventative Disease Management Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease Type</th>
<th>Greens</th>
<th>Tees</th>
<th>Fairways</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fungal Diseases</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassy Weeds</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadleaf Weeds</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Insects</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Insects</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
SUPERINTENDENT COMPLAINTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Complaint</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Headaches</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Problems</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Respect</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Bureaucracy</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Hours</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golfers, Golfers, Golfers</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather!</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Pay</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL USAGE & STORAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usage &amp; Storage</th>
<th>(% of Responding Golf Courses)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercially Certified</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privately Certified</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Certified Applicator</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel Stored In:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Ground Tanks</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Ground Tanks</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHERE DO MID-ATLANTIC GOLF COURSES PRIMARILY GET THEIR WATER?

- Reservoir: 4%
- Pond/Lake: 35%
- City Water: 9%
- Stream/River: 12%
- Well Water: 28%

ALLOCATION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S TIME

- Meetings: 9%
- Personnel: 14%
- Administrative: 22%
- Other: 47%
- On Golf Course: 47%

AND ABOUT LADIES' NIGHT...

Where were you the third Sunday evening last October? Were you strolling past sharks, dallying around some dolphins, or enjoying a quiet conversation among the jellyfish? If not, you missed the Mid-Atlantic's premier social event of 1996. Gordon Caldwell, CGCS and his Social Committee put together an incredible evening of relaxation and indulgence for over 40 MAAGCS members and their spouses at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. The staff at the aquarium opened up the entire exhibit area for MAAGCS's private enjoyment—including the hands-on area (the jellyfish were on a different floor!). The light buffet was splendidly catered and savored by all in the penthouse lounge overlooking the harbor lights. The movable bars seemed to crop up just about everywhere the couples went. Gordy will have his work cut out for him next year when he tries to top this event. Contact him with any ideas for social events (be creative—the National Aquarium in Baltimore will be a very tough act to follow). For those who missed Ladies' Night 1996, swing by the National Aquarium in Baltimore, slip a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres out of your pocket, and try to imagine the experience without the teeming masses swirling all around you!
New Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doug Ballew</td>
<td>Manor CC</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erik Baracall</td>
<td>Manor CC</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Bell</td>
<td>Portland GC</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Kieth Blake</td>
<td>Springfield G &amp; CC</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl Coswel, III</td>
<td>Manor CC</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay Craft</td>
<td>Manor CC</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britton Dudley</td>
<td>Norbeck CC</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Gribling</td>
<td>Caves Valley GC</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Miller</td>
<td>Harbour Towne Resort</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Painter</td>
<td>Prince William GC</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Park</td>
<td>Glen Dale GC</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kieth Pitchford</td>
<td>Treemasters, Inc.</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kieth Williams</td>
<td>Cattail Creek CC</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations

Michael Evans, of the Country Club of Woodmore, and his wife, Josephine, on the October 6th birth of their daughter, Kelly Nicole.

John Newcombe, of the South River Golf Club, and his wife, Judi, on the October 9th birth of their son, John Anderson, Jr.

Reroutings

Jim Weaver, formerly at Robert Trent Jones GC, now at Washington Golf & CC
Gary Krone, formerly at Crofton CC, now at Diamond Ridge GC
Mark Waltz, formerly at International Town & CC, now at Crofton CC

Get Well Wishes

Thomas Malehorn, of Team Lesco, is recovering from November 6th shoulder surgery.
Lou Rudinski, of Eisenhower GC, is recovering from the first (Nov. 14th) of three scheduled surgeries on his heart.

A Job Well Done

Bob Miller, CGCS, superintendent of The Suburban Club, Pikesville, MD, will retire at the end of July, 1997 after 33 years at the helm. Bob and his wife, Donna, will stay in the Mid-Atlantic area to be near their grandchildren as well as Bob's former colleagues.

Ben Stagg will be retiring from Hog Neck Golf Course after more than 20 years of service to his club, the Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Shore Superintendents Associations, and the game of golf. We look forward to his continued presence and wish him well in his new endeavors.
Golf Notes
continued from page 6

Gross

1st Bart Colgan 76
2nd Lee Carroll 78
3rd Bill Shirk 81
4th Glenn Smickley 81
5th Tom Mynaugh 84
6th Corey Haney 84
7th Dave Horton 85
8th Tim Sage 85

CTP #4 Scott Wagner Pro-Lawn/bergamo
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To all the member of the MAAGCS, thank you!!
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Thanks to our sponsors, congrats to the survivors (win-ners) and thanks again Bruce for having us!
Since this is my last article as golf Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BOD and the mem-
ers of this Association for your support over the past three years. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the membership as Golf Chairman. I would also like to thank Ben Stagg, Tim Sage, Mike Evans and Paul Masimore for their help on the committee.

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The educational process, the foundation of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) existence, is spotlighted this fall as the organization's certification program celebrates its 25th year of operation.

Established Sept. 1, 1971, the original nine-member Certification Committee was charged with developing a comprehensive program to promote the professionalism of golf course superintendents and make the program recognized worldwide. The Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) designation is bestowed upon completion of the project, recognizing achievement of professional excellence. As the game of golf, the golf industry and the superintendent profession has changed, so too has the certification program. To ensure the program addresses industry changes, GCSAA's Certification Committee is constantly evaluating the requirements.

"Over the years, the term CGCS has taken on worldwide importance for superintendents and their employers," said GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams, CGCS. "It truly is a measure of professional excellence in our industry."

To begin the certification process, individuals must be currently employed as a golf course superintendent, have completed a level of post-second@ education, possess superintendent experience and pursue GCSAA seminar continuing education units (CEUs). After fulfilling those requirements, the applicant has one year to complete a comprehensive six-part examination and go through the attesting process. The examination covers the areas of GCSAA knowledge; the game and the rules of golf, turfgrass management; pest control, safety and compliance; financial management; and organizational management. In addition, two certified golf course superintendents evaluate the applicant's course conditions, maintenance facility, recordkeeping and communication skills.

The popularity of the program is measured by a growing number of participants, from 47 certified the first year to 144 certified in 1995. Of the 2,175 superintendents certified in the last quarter century, 1,609 are active in the profession and continue to maintain certified status through continuing education. To renew certification status superintendents must complete a recertification program every five years. Recertification is attained by completing 100 hours of GCSAA continuing education units or successful completion of the initial certification examination.

The Certification Committee will recognize superintendents certified in 1996 and those with 15-, 20- and 25-year anniversaries at the Feb. 10th Certification Luncheon at the 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas, the association provides education, information and representation to more than 16,700 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession, and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

Reprinted with permission from GCSAA News Release, October 23, 1996.
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1997 MAAGCS
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