The University of Maryland placed two teams in the top 20 for the third consecutive year at the 2006 Collegiate Turf Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia. A 10th place and 20th place finish by the two Maryland teams kept the streak alive in a highly competitive field of 82 teams. The Collegiate Turf Bowl was one of several events held for students at the 77th GCSAA Education Conference this past February.

The 10th place team consisted of Alex Putman, Ricky Leshin, and Rich Berry while the 17th place team participants were Brian Soper, Matt Harps, Andrew Puddester, and Mark Allman.

The University of Maryland teams consisted of both 2 and 4 year students from the Institute of Applied Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources and Landscape Architecture.

Financial support was provided by the Maryland Turfgrass Council and proceeds from the Shields Memorial Tournament. Special thanks to the above organizations for making this event possible.
President's Message

Tom Ritter, CGCS

I am here writing this message on March 15th and I couldn't help wondering if in recent years the weather in this month of transition from winter to spring fluctuates more than in years past. Or do I just not remember the March's of a decade or two ago as clearly as I think I do? Temperatures are predicted to fall into the mid-20's tonight following high temperatures in the mid-eighties just 2 days ago. I have always tracked the weather closely. I majored in meteorology in college for 2 years before changing majors to agronomy and the perception in my mind is that weather patterns have indeed changed in the last 20-30 years.

We all know that change is inevitable and this was one of the topics I recently discussed with the Golf II class taught by Dr. Kevin Mathias at the University of Maryland. Dr. Mathias invites the President of MAAGCS each year to speak to the class about career, professionalism, and professional associations. The world, including golf course management is evolving and changing at a remarkable rate and I suggested to them that the people that advance and are successful in their careers are the people that can most effectively adapt to new ideas, strategies, and technology. Those that rely on the "old way" of doing things will be left behind in this highly competitive golf industry. I told the class that one of the most effective tools available in assisting Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and students in their careers is membership in the GCSAA and the MAAGCS. I took them on a brief tour of the GCSAA web site and showed them the multitude of resources available to them as members of these professional associations. I would encourage all members of MAAGCS and GCSAA to consider better utilizing the associations that are designed specifically to aid you in your career. If you have not visited the GCSAA web site recently, I think you will be amazed at what it now has to offer members. The MAAGCS web site provides an excellent way to stay informed at the local level. It is no longer "good enough" to only read Golf Course Management magazine every month. Active involvement in professional associations is a major key to success in your career.

I was very pleased with the attendance at the 6th annual MAAGCS Education Seminar yesterday. We had approximately 110 attendees and received positive feedback from several people. I want to especially thank Bryan McFerren (Education chairman) and Steve Evans for all the effort they put into making this a quality event. The seminar is designed to "break even" financially and I would like to thank the sponsors for increasing their support this year so that we could reduce the registration cost by $15 compared to last year.

I also want to thank Theresa Baria and Randall Pinckney for their efforts in preparing for and facilitating the MAAGCS hospitality room at the Golf Industry Show in Atlanta. It too was very well attended.

Indian Spring CC and Rhys Arthur will be our host for the next chapter meeting on April 11th. The format will be a Superintendent/Assistant Supt. tournament. For those of you who are not aware; Indian Spring will be closing at the end of this year. The property has been sold and will become a residential development. The April meeting will probably be the last opportunity for most of us to enjoy a round of golf at this fine 36 hole facility located in Silver Spring, MD. I encourage everyone to make an effort to attend. Rhys promises me that everyone who attends will have a good time.

As we embark on another new golf season, I want to reiterate to all of our members that the Board and I are always accessible. Please feel free to contact any of us through any means available to express any concerns, ideas, or questions you may have for the betterment of YOUR Association.

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents
P. O. Box 1398, Abingdon, MD 21009-6398
Theresa Baria, Executive Secretary
(888) 643-8873
maagcs@earthlink.net

Turfgrass Matters
Quent Baria, CGCS - Editor

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Products advertised in this publication are not endorsed by this Association.
Golf and the Environment go Hand in Hand
Greg Hofstetter – Senior Golf Manager / Agronomist, Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc (WEG)

With over 15,000 golf courses in the United States, it is no surprise that golf's appeal just keeps growing. According to an article in the Smithsonian magazine, golf courses are opening at an astonishing rate of about one per day. The National Golf Association recorded 265 new courses were opened and ready for play within a 6 month period of time!

With all of these new courses opening at such an expeditious rate it is important to recognize that the development and redesign of courses must focus on protecting our environment, correcting existing conditions and insuring the life-span of the course.

Since golf's playing field utilizes the landscape, it is important that the relationship between golf courses and the environment be a top priority for the golf industry. Minimizing environmental impacts and protecting habitats can improve the course's overall appeal to players by making it more unique and memorable.

The following is a list compiled by The American Society of Golf Course Architects that addresses the benefits that occur when an environmental approach is used in the design, construction and maintenance of a golf course:

- A golf course presents the opportunity to meet a need for recreational amenities, while preserving green space that will provide benefits for the future development of an area.
- Often the green space of a golf course can serve as a protective buffer between sensitive environmental areas and development. This buffer, which contains extensive turfed areas and vegetation, will also protect water quality by providing stabilization against erosion and stormwater management.
- Efficient and responsible maintenance practices for the golf course will promote the proper use and conservation of water resources.
- A golf course can also provide enhancement to the environment by incorporating areas for conservation and the promotion of wildlife habitat.
- In situations where land has been degraded over time by intensive use or mismanagement, golf courses can provide much needed land improvement.*

Recently, the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Division compiled a set of voluntary environmental guidelines for golf courses in Worcester County and the Delmarva Peninsula. The guidelines are recommendations for areas characterized by high groundwater, a complex system of waterways, proximity to fragile coastal waters and abundance of wildlife. The guidelines are intended to be a tool for local use and are completely voluntary. However, they do address issues that may be associated with mandatory requirements. They were designed as a guide to improve the planning and siting, design, construction, operation and maintenance of golf courses.

If you have any questions regarding the development or renovation of golf courses and the effects on the environment or would like a copy of the guidelines contact Greg Hofstetter of Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. (WEG) at (703) 437-3096 or at ghofstetter@wegnet.com.

Golf Report
Bill Augustin, Golf Chairman

First I would like to say thanks to Steve Cohoon, CGCS, Scott Furlong, CGCS, Michael King, and Rick Wakefield, CGCS for representing The Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents at the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America National Golf Tournament in Houston.

Be sure to join us for one last round at Indian Springs Country Club on April 11th for the Assistant Superintendent Tournament. So, get your team together, Superintendents and Assistants contact Theresa at the Mid-Atlantic office to sign up for the tournament.

Mark your calendars for the tournaments coming this Season:

- April 11, 2006, Superintendent/Assistant, Indian Spring Country Club
- May 9, 2006, Superintendent/Pro Beechtree Golf Course
- The November meeting will be held at Lakewood Country Club

The MAAGCS is always looking for golf sponsors. If anyone is interested in becoming a Hole Sponsor please contact Theresa Baria at 888/MID-TURF.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Tournaments!
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2006 March Education Seminar
Theresa Baria, Executive Secretary

The Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents in partnership with Turf Equipment and Supply Company, Inc. held their 2006 Education Seminar Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at The Inn & Conference Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD with 115 in attendance. Additional companies that sponsored this event were Fisher & Sons Co., Inc., Finch Services Inc., Summit Hall Turf Farm; BASF; Egypt Farms, G. L. Cornell, and Helena Chemical.

Our special thanks goes to Steve Evans who organized this event, along with Education Chairman Bryan McFerren.

The list of speakers and topics are as follows: James T. Snow, National Director, United States Golf Association "The Evolution of the Golf Course Superintendent", Darin Bevard, Agronomist, United States Golf Association Green Section, Mid-Atlantic Region "USGA's Top Tens of 2005", Kevin Morris, Executive Director, National Turfgrass Evaluation Program "New Advances In Turfgrass Research – Species, Cultivars, and the Future", Dr. Erik Ervin, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University "Physiology of Phosphite Fertilizers", Glori Hyman, Instructor, Institute Of Applied Agriculture, University Of Maryland "Winning The Interview Game", and Steve McDonald, Philadelphia Country Club and Turfgrass Disease Solutions "Velocity: Control of Poa Annua and Poa Trivialis in Fairway Height Turf.

Thomas Ritter, CGCS, President of MAAGCS presented service awards to Dean Graves, CGCS, for his years of service as Government Relations Director for MAAGS. Also, he presented an award of service to Brett Post for 2005 Newsletter Editor of Turfgrass Matters. Scholarships were presented to the following Students: Patrick Cromwell, Towson Golf & CC; Richard Guillespe, Greystone GC; Mark Almond, University of MD GC; Adam Bogucki, CC of Maryland.
SCHEDULE
April 11, 2006 Superintendent/Assistant, Indian Spring CC
May 9, 2006 Superintendent/Pro Beechtree Golf Course
November Golf & Meeting will be held at Lakewood CC
   (Details at Later Date)

Bullets from the Boardroom

• 2005 Election results:
  Mr. Quent Baria – 2-year term
  Mr. Bill Augustin – 1-year term
  Mr. Mike Augustin – 1-year term
  Mr. Rich Sweeney – 1-year term

• MAAGCS donations for Turfgrass research at the University of Maryland were presented to Dr. Dernoeden at Maryland Turfgrass ’06

• Steve Cohoon, Scott Furlong, Mike King and Ed Long represented MAAGCS in the National Team Event Net

• Rick Wakefield represented MAAGCS in the Championship Flight

• MAAGCS Scholarship Winners: Patrick Cromwell, Towson Golf & CC; Richard Guillespe, Greystone GC; Mark Almond, University of MD GC; Adam Bogucki, CC of Maryland

• EPA staff to tour the Turf Research Facility

• University of Maryland traffic study house bill 659; a one-year traffic study to hopefully show that a new road through the Paint Branch Facility will not help traffic problems.

News & Notes

New Members
Class B
Chad Sthole, Presidential Golf Club

Class C
Ryan Cox, Hillendale CC
John Geyer, Jr., Patuxent Green Golf Club
Tucker Langway, The Suburban Club
Ross Miller, Lowes Island Club

Class D
Jim Masimore, Piney Branch Golf Course
Kurk Warburton, Country Club of Maryland

Class F
Bob Glessner, G.L. Cornell
Rob Shumaker, G.L. Cornell
Jason Wirtz, G.L. Cornell

Congratulations
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Isaac on the birth of their son, Landon Garrett. He weighed in at 9 pounds and 5 ounces.

MAAGCS Government Relations Chairman Rich Sweeney and his wife, Jamie, on the birth of their son, Logan Sweeney. Logan was born 2/15/06 and weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces, 20” long.

Get Well
Kevin Smith (Davisson Golf) had a Cardiac Ablation February 16th. He is doing well.

Condolences
Our thoughts and prayers are with Lou Rudinski (longtime MAAGCS member and host of our family picnic) and his wife, Jeanne. Their daughter and son-in-law, Vanessa and Donald DeBolt lost their preborn son, Andrew DeBolt.

Newly Certified
Mike Barrett, CGCS, Argyle Country Club
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