

## MAAGCS Mourns the Loss of Rick Wakefield

Members of International Country Club and other area golfers are saddened by the news as word spread of the sudden death of veteran championship golfer and International Country Club golf course superintendent Rick Wakefield. Mr. Wakefield died of a sudden heart attack at his home on Saturday, Aug. 19.

Rick Wakefield brought a player's perspective to his service at the Fairfax club as he had competed with considerable success in many Virginia, Middle Atlantic, and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America events over the years. The VGCSA extends its deepest sympathy to the Wakefield family.

Memorial Services for Rick Wakefield were held at Moser Funeral Home on Thursday, August 24, 2006. There was a reception held at International Country Club following the service.

### From the Washington Post:

#### Richard V. Wakefield, (Age 47)



Beloved husband of "Moose Muffin" and loving father of "Pop Dude" and "Boomer" on August 19, 2006 at Fauquier Hospital, Warrenton, VA. He was born on January 6, 1959 in Arlington, VA the son of Paul Alan Wakefield and Mary Kathleen Reichman Wakefield, who preceded him in death. Rick was a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, a member of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America and a third generation nurseryman. He is survived by his wife, Stacie Ann Wakefield; two children, Dallas Tye Wakefield (fiancee, Holly) of Herndon, VA and Jennifer Kathleen Wakefield of Warrenton. Also survived by two brothers, Harold (Maria) Wakefield of Lebanon, PA and Paul Alan Wakefield of Virginia Beach, VA. Additional survivors include his father and mother-in-law, Howard and Ellen Smith; and in-laws, Susan Wakefield, Alisa and Michael Rooney, Steve Smith, Aimee and Michael Preast, Anthony and Lisa Smith; 22 nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Robert Malcolm Wakefield. Memorial Services were held on Thursday, August 24, 2006 in Warrenton. A reception followed at the International Country Club.

### Richard V. Wakefield Memorial Fund

In memory of Rick, the Richard V. Wakefield Memorial Fund has been established.

#### Contributions may be made to:

Richard V. Wakefield Memorial Fund, c/o Cardinal Bank,  
4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

### What Brand Name means for the Turf Industry

With more chemicals coming off patents and companies making generic products for the turf industry, I have heard both sides of the debate regarding brand name versus generic. Over the years, I have even sold some of the generics and have heard everything from they work OK, to they do not work as long. A lot of you have tried them and have come back to the name brand product because of more control. I have talked with most of the big name brand companies to find out why their products cost more.

Let us start out with the people who support the products in your area. If you have a problem with a disease or their product, these representatives can be there in 24 hours, or less, to help you through it. They are technically-trained and their background is from the turf industry so they know what they are talking about. These representatives do seminars and one-on-one meetings throughout the year to keep you up-to-date on anything new in the industry.

To bring a new compound to your shop door costs about 150 million dollars. This does not count the many compounds the companies buy, test, and ones that do not make the cut. Bottom line they are working to bring you new products to use. The costs to register a new product and keep other products registered are very expensive, because the EPA is very strict about the effect on the environment. These products are tried and true with improvements of some of the products to make them better or easier to use. These products are tested by you, the consumer, and numerous universities around the country to make sure they do what they say. Every company gives a guaranteed satisfaction of their product when used properly, according to the directions on the label.

Let us not forget how the companies support all of our associations, local and national. All of you have seen their presence and see what they do for us. They have web sites, publications and 800 numbers to help you get plenty of information much easier.

I know some of you do not like the points programs some of the companies have and would rather have lower prices, but the reality is these programs are not likely to go away. Use them to your advantage, office products, airline tickets, hotel reservations, register for the GCSAA national. Some of you have told me some great ideas on you use them. Use them for employee of the month gifts, Christmas gifts and I am sure there are other great uses that you can come up with to make it worth your while.

In closing, these companies do so much to support and bring new products to you to use that will further the future of our industry. Brand name products cost more for several reasons. Their representatives are technically-trained; provide service within 24 hours; and provide one-on-one meetings. These companies also spend a great deal to ensure quality products through testing, and, most of all, provide guaranteed satisfaction of their products.