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Upcoming Events

October 26th—MAAGCS Annual Championship @ Eagle’s Nest Country Club

November 2nd—Assistants Forum @ Belmont Country Club

December 8th—MAAGCS Annual Meeting @ Cattail Creek Country Club
Well it seems as we have been hurled into the fall season. The weather never ceases to amaze and now Mother Nature has essentially erased all of our hard work from the past three months with a week of rain; oh well!

Association business has been very busy. Both Penn State and University of Maryland have applied for new GCSAA research grants for some exciting new research. Dr. Ben McGraw will be looking at how cultural practices affect the ABW lifecycle and Dr. Joe Roberts will begin researching how microbes evolve in the soil and how recycled water can alter the microbial population. It is great to see new initiatives put into place and MAAGCS has committed support to both schools.

The Montgomery County Council has made their decision pertaining to reducing the use of cosmetic pesticides in Montgomery County. Right or wrong this decision sets a precedent and although golf courses remain exempt, the regulatory road ahead will be long. This move by Montgomery County makes our BMP project even more valuable.

Our Best Management Practices Development is well on its way thanks to a variety of people. The first being everyone who made the trip inside the beltway to Columbia CC for the Stewards of the Chesapeake. Pat Jones gave an excellent talk about how important BMP’s are, how regions that endorse BMPs have bolstered their relationship with legislators and the public, and also how some states have failed to utilize BMPs, making their jobs more difficult. This year we netted over $25,000 and it has enabled us to go full steam ahead with developing our BMPs. Major thanks goes to all of our sponsors, especially our Presenting Sponsor Genesis, as well as Supporting Sponsors Helena, Syngenta, Jacobsen and Turf Equipment and Supply.

The Virginia Chapter (VGCSA) has also helped us get moving on the BMP’s. Virginia has agreed to join in with us as we place their original BMP project online and then develop specific sections for Maryland, Virginia and Delaware. Being able to use the foundation Virginia has already created has helped us immensely and by joining together, Virginia will be able to utilize a dynamic online document instead of a physical document that is difficult to update and distribute.

Members from all three associations (MAAGCS, VGCSA, ESAGCS) will sit on the review committee for the BMP’s. Eastern Shore has applied for a GCSAA grant which we will hopefully be able to apply towards the project.

\[\text{(Continued page 8)}\]
Montgomery County Council passed Bill 52-14 with a vote of 6-3 on October 6, 2015, which ultimately prevents a veto (overturning a County Executive veto requires 6 votes.) The new law comes into effect on January 1st, 2018, banning the use of “cosmetic pesticides” on home lawns, public parks, daycare facilities, and county property.

Each Councilmember spoke into their opinions on the ban and on pesticide use in general. Golf courses and farming (agriculture) are exempt from this ban in this bill, though we are sure to face another bill in the future.

The House of Delegates’ Environment and Transportation Committee designated a workgroup to study neonicotinoid pesticides for the 2015 legislative season. It is designed to study neonicotinoid usage and impacts, not to develop a bill. This has been developed in response to 2015’s HB 605, which unsuccessfully sought to ban the sale of neonicotinoid treated plants, neonic products, and stopped use of any neonic by non-certified applicators. The group has been asked to look into the following information:

- What are the alternatives to neonic and what are the costs of the alternatives?
- Why have neonic been eliminated by some retailers, applicators, stores, etc?
- How do neonic impact bee health (lethal vs. sublethal effects)
- What sort of IPM practices are available?
- With respect to the label requirement in HB 605 of 2015, can alternative language be suggested?

The panel was scheduled to discuss neonicotinoids on October 21st, 2015. Though we offered assistance, golf has been asked to step back on this issue. I believe this is because we approach pesticide applications in ways that lawn companies cannot (watering in neonic, eliminating clover prior to applications, timing applications correctly, etc.) They do know our offer stands and we will be there at any time should they need our help.

To read the details about each council person’s vote, check out the news section on our website at www.maagcs.org.

Jay Nalls—Government Relations

The Rounds 4 Research program was designed to address a critical shortage in turfgrass research funding by auctioning donated rounds of golf online.

The program is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

R4R Auction is completed! Thank you donors and bidders for helping MAA-GCS and GCSAA raise funds for turf research through R4R program. Your help raised nearly $3,000 this year! Please go to www.rounds4research.com to learn more about the program.
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Unless you have been living in a hole, you have likely heard that California is in the midst of a historical drought. Consequently, golf courses residing in the state have been under the water-usage microscope. While this certainly presents challenges to our water-dependent industry, the situation also provides an opportunity to self-reflect, learn and try to get better in regards to water management.

I'm not here to sound the panic alarm, or shame our industry for using water. After all, in actuality, golf courses only use one half of one percent of all water withdrawn in the United States annually. And only 14 percent of golf courses use water from a municipal water supply. So you may be asking, "who cares then?" Well, a lot of people do, just read the news. I could go on with numerous anecdotal facts that support golf's claims as responsible users of water. And believe me, I buy into all of them. But that still doesn't mean that we can't improve.

Golf course irrigation can actually be mutually beneficial for golf, the environment, and other water consumers. How so? By using recycled water. In a story published by the Napa Valley Register (napavalleyregister.com), golf receives some positive PR as we learn about Napa Valley Country Club's conversion to recycled water. Sure, the upfront cost associated with installing the required infrastructure is certainly notable. But given the current state of water access in the state, I believe this is an investment well worth it. And as General Manager Todd Meginness points out, "aesthetically, environmentally, everybody wins. We'll be recharging the water table at the same time." Now that brings the initial point full circle.

Certainly, here in the Mid-Atlantic region, our weather conditions are quite different. We receive more rain, we experience a little season called winter when there is no need to irrigate (most of the time), and I would argue that public pressure for reducing water usage is not quite as high. But we still have a responsibility to do our due diligence and evaluate our current water management plans.

- Do you have the ability to use reclaimed water? If so, what are the costs/benefits long-term and short-term?
- How efficient is your current irrigation system? Have you audited recently?
- Do you have a drought management plan in place?
- Is there opportunity for irrigation reduction by replacing plantings with more drought tolerant plant species?
- Is your club or association part of a water conservation task force? Should it be?

(Continued page 17)
President’s message continued from page 4

Over the next year we will be working with professors from University of Maryland as well as Virginia Tech to form the Delmarva BMPs. Stacey Kingsbury will be facilitating the project, as she did for Virginia and New York.

Our goal is to have our BMPs up and running by December 2016. We will be forming a validation process and possibly working with GCSAA to certify golf courses who commit to following the BMPs. We will also be working hard to get legislators to back our BMPs and communicate our efforts to regulators. These efforts will pay dividends for years to come. The online nature of the document will also put our environmentally conscious practices on display for the public and although it will take time, the public’s perception of golf courses will be persuaded towards the positive.

I hope to see many of you at our remaining events for the year, have a great fall season!

Chris Harriman – MAAGCS President
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WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?

In 5 years I am hoping to have an increased role with MAAGCS, such as being the President. At Westminster National GC I plan on continuing my current responsibilities and maybe supervising a second course, if possible.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO YOUR ROLE AT WESTMINSTER NATIONAL GOLF CLUB?

After graduating from University of Maryland with a certificate in Turfgrass Management, I was hired by the owners of the golf course. I had worked for them at Oakmont Green as a laborer since middle school. They knew my work ethic, training and experience. They felt I would be a good fit at Westminster.

WHAT NEW PRACTICES OR TECHNOLOGY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE YEARS TO COME?

I’m looking forward to a cure for Dollar Spot in the long-term. I’m excited to use social media to draw the younger generations to the game of golf. We have a mobile app that we are using at our course that has had some positive results with the younger crowd and I look forward to the expansion of it in the coming years.

WHAT NEW IDEAS OR PROGRAMS DO YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR THE MAAGCS?

I’m hoping to work with David Norman on increasing sponsorships and reevaluating our current packages to provide a better value to our vendors. I believe this will increase sponsorship revenue and provide more opportunities for all MAAGCS members.

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www.genesisgreensupply.com
Perfect conditions for Superintendent-Pro Event at Belle Haven

Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, VA played host to the 2015 MAAGCS Superintendent-Pro Tournament under bright sunshine and crisp blue skies. Host superintendent Mike Augustin and his assistant Ryan Anderson had the course in superb condition for the large field of competitors.

Winning the championship were Joe Villegas and his pro Tyler Schmutz of Bretton Woods, who cruised around in 4-under-par 68 on a course that only yielded two subpar rounds for the day. They edged out the Defending Champion Kinloch Team of Trevor Hedgepeth and Brian Holstein, who finished with a 70. Winning Low Net in the Pro-Super Division were Andrew Puddester and Nick Miller of Crofton CC with a net 66.

In the Open Division, John Karas and Bruce Pennington representing River Bend G&CC won by one over Mike Mueller and Zach Wignall of Herndon Centennial.

Chase Rogan Report  
continued from page 7

- Do you have a relationship with your local water authority? Should you?
- Do you use soil moisture meters to determine irrigation requirements?
- Ever thought about building a retention pond and capturing runoff to use for irrigation?

The list goes on. As an industry we have more work to do with developing drought tolerant grasses, salt tolerant grasses, etc. A project that likely will never end, nor should it. Likewise, we are continually developing our BMPs, and water management is a key section.

Similarly, water quality is not too different from water usage. Cue the Chesapeake Bay. Have you heard there is a water quality issue there? That is why I really like the idea of using recycled water, if at all possible. Not only does it benefit us, but it benefits everyone, and it is a great PR move for our industry. Maybe there are grants available. Maybe you and a local club could cost-share to get the appropriate infrastructure in place. Maybe the sanitation plant would cost-share. Maybe there would be tax write-offs.

I don't know your specific situation. But I do believe it is our responsibility as an industry to evaluate our water management practices annually, and ask ourselves the question, "how is my water management, and how can I improve?"

Chase Rogan—Mid Atlantic GCSAA
Fall forward to new goals

When we are getting into the fall season and beginning fall renovations processes, it is always a great time to begin thinking about next year and setting goals. These goals should not only be for the golf course but personal. Goal setting is a great way to keep the golf course and yourself on track for the upcoming year.

The first step in setting goals is to create a clear vision. This vision is something that is large and will create the direction for each goal you set, each action you take, and it will give those who know you a long-term view of where you are going in the future.

Three things to think about that may help with creating a vision and setting goals are:

- Brainstorm actions that you think will help you get there
- Brainstorm obstacles that could get in the way
- Brainstorm solutions to those obstacles

These three things will help you get started on your new vision and help create the goals that will lead you to success in the future.

The most important part of goal setting is making sure that your goal motivates you. Also, it is important that you make these goals SMART; specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and make sure to give yourself a timeline. By making goals and completing goals, it can give you a great idea of where you are in your career and help lead you to where you want to be. I hope that these simple but powerful insights will help you get started on your new vision and create the goals that will lead you and your team to success in the future.

This fall we will be having a joint assistant’s meeting with the VGCSA at Belmont Country Club on November 2\textsuperscript{nd}. This will be a great event filled with a networking opportunity with both MAAGCS and VGCSA members, an educational event given by Tim Moraghan from Aspire Golf, and even a panel discussion prior to golf. Sign up for the MAAGCS/VGCSA Assistants Forum at Belmont Country Club online!
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Pat Jones, Golf Course Industry, providing reasons behind use of BMPs

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Support your team

As we come through the home stretch of the golf season, I look forward to October baseball, college and professional football weekends and great golfing conditions. I’ve been fortunate to take advantage of the cooler temperatures to enjoy some of the area’s finest golf courses. However, there’s plenty of leaf cleanup, course improvement projects and budgeting season to stay occupied until winter weather rears its ugly head soon.

One of the biggest projects I have coming up is review season. I am not talking about just reviewing the state of the golf course, but also the state of our operations and people. A good chunk of our labor force will find other opportunities as the golf season comes to an end, but I think it is critical to give them the feedback and support they’ve earned. Mentoring is a huge component to our profession, and we are challenged daily to provide a safe, progressive, informative and comfortable work environment for our employees. Yes the labor market is as challenging as it has ever been, which provides the motivation to teach, mentor and provide support for our employees.

I can speak on personal experience that small tokens of appreciation have gone a long way in retaining our employees. There are plenty of tools and resources to show your interest and value in your staff. A simple update as a television or digital job board shows your commitment to improving communication and professionalism with your staff. Safety training videos are another resource to be used 15-minutes at the end of the day for the staff to come in and relax, but also provide a learning opportunity to benefit the business.

Our industry is all about building relationships, and it starts with your staff. I am fortunate to be young enough to understand and relate to the social pressures of younger generations, but the wisdom (I think) to work with a variety of demographics. Improving those relationships with your staff will lead into a successful winter season and a great start to 2016. We have put a premium on team building exercises and discussions of progression to get our staff to buy into the team program.

The vendors in the Mid Atlantic are in tune with this same message. Take a look at Twitter pages within our association, and it is remarkable to see our vendors support maintenance teams throughout the region. There’s plenty of competitive spirit, but the intentions to promote and support golf course maintenance is unparalleled to other areas of our industry.

The MAAGCS also provides a variety of platforms to show your staff the investment into their future and careers. The scholarship fund that will be awarded to promising students, our assistant forum in November, the Annual Meeting at Cattail Creek and other local industry events are just some platforms to demonstrate your commitment to their success.

Don’t fall asleep on this critical time to start planning for next year. You can send a very loud message to your staff through promotion of industry events and their growth. Let them know how they have benefited the business and how they can help support your overall goals for 2016.

Warm Regards,

Tyler Bloom—Newsletter Editor
MAAGCS Annual Meeting

Save the date—December 8th

@ Cattail Creek Country Club

The event is a spectacular day for networking and review of the last year in the Mid-Atlantic. Join your peers and enjoy the camaraderie of the MAAGCS. The event includes lunch, scholarship awards, nominations for the Board of Directors, and more.

Visit www.maagcs.org for tournament information and to register.