

# Turfgrass Matters



June 1991, vol. 44, no. 4

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## Wayne Brissey to host June 11 meeting at Reston Golf Course

Reston Golf Course will be the site of the MAAGCS June meeting. The Ed Ault course, which opened in 1969, serves the planned community as a public course.

There's a smile and a trace of skepticism in the voice of superintendent Wayne Brissey when he tells you, "The scuttlebut around here is that Hugh Hefner had something to do with the course." The reason for this rumor? When you look at the course from above, the layout resembles the head of a Playboy bunny.

What is a certainty, however, is that Reston is an 18-hole, par 71, public course that gets 55- to 60,000 rounds a year. "We're a racetrack," says Wayne. "Most think the course is beautifully laid out and, for a facility that gets so much play, in wonderful condition—we're blessed with hearty grass."

To help facilitate play on the busy course, notes Wayne, they recently instituted a slow play policy. If players do not turn nine holes in two hours fifteen minutes, they're given a twilight fee and asked to return after 6 p.m. "This has had very of favorable response. A lot of people are starting to come back and play here. We don't want to deter people from playing, we just want them to have a comfortable, good time and not be upset about slow play."

Greens at Reston are bentgrass and poa, tees are bent rye and poa, while fairways are rye and poa. Wayne says that mowing and fertilizing are not on an absolutely strict schedule. "I wait to see what

Mother Nature is going to do to me." The greens are about 3/16," "but we vary the height of cut according to conditions. If it's hot or dry, we raise our height to take the grass out of stress." Fairways are mowed at 5/8" and the rough at 1-3/8". "It doesn't sound all that tall, but it's demanding."

The irrigation system on five holes at Reston has recently been upgraded. "We redid the configuration of the five holes so that individual control heads that used to have two control boxes, now have four." This provides a much improved distribution of the waterflow. "We are progressively upgrading the entire irrigation system."

Wayne, a native of Ohio, originally thought he wanted a career in banking and finance. "I bagged that; I decided I didn't want to be inside in a suit. I started working for the Department of Natural Resources in Ohio at Houston Woods Golf Course. I was there for 10 years as an assistant." Wayne retired from this position, took the money and went back to college at Penn State for his turfgrass certificate. After completion of his two years, he worked at TPC of Avenel for a year during the construction phase. Wayne then became superintendent at Chesapeake Hills in Lusby, Md., where he worked for three years. From his



Wayne Brissey

position as an assistant at Indian Spring Golf Club, Wayne moved to Reston a year and a half ago.

His leisure activities now center around his family. He and his wife Deb, supervisor of a computer group at GE, enjoy working on the house they purchased last year. When they can take time, they particularly like showing two-year-old Eric the wonders of Washington—the parks, museums and activities. "It's such a diverse area, on my days off we try to plan around events going on in the city." Yes, he does play golf, "but no low scores, I just have fun."

And fun is what Wayne wants all of you to have. To prove it, he proposes a small scavenger hunt. Once, to show what he thinks of stimping greens, he claims, he spray-painted his meter white and made it one of the OB markers. He wants to see if you can spot it. No prize, though.

**GOLF: Limited tee times: 11a.m. to 1 p.m. To reserve call 703-620-9333.**

**THE MEETING** will be at the Sheraton just past the course, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive. Cocktails are at 6 p.m., dinner at 7. Cost is \$25, cash bar. Dress is casual—golf attire. **Reservations: 301-381-0030**

**DIRECTIONS:** Take 495 to the Dulles Access Toll Rd. Have 75 cents ready. Go to Exit 3, Reston Ave. South on Reston Ave. to the first intersection, Sunrise Valley Drive, go left. After the first light, entrance to the course is on the right. The Sheraton is past the golf course.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Thanks to golf chairman Scott Wagner and our host Ben Stagg, our annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament



was a huge success. The food was excellent, the golf course was great and the weather even co-operated.

Ben and the staff at Hog Neck did a remarkable job of getting 61 teams around the golf course and across the street to dinner on time.

It's always good to get away from our own jobs for a while, but a day with our golf professionals and our peers always helps to break up the stress and tension of our daily schedules and it also helps make the bonds between us and our professional staff stronger.

As we all sort of predicted, we haven't had much of a spring. We have already gone right into the 90-degree days in the first weeks of May. Our courses are saturated in some places, drying out in others, packed with golfers and we are all trying to prepare ourselves for whatever summer will bring.

All this makes the one or two days a month we can get away from our own jobs to be with our friends even more important to all of us. I think it helps a great deal with our attitude, the way we face our daily tasks, with the normal stress of our jobs as well as with the stresses of life.

Our reservations for the last two meetings have been excellent. Your help and continued support in this matter are appreciated by all concerned.

Our next meeting will be at Reston Golf Course and our host, Wayne Brissey, has another good day planned for us.

Because we will be eating dinner at a nearby restaurant, *early* reservations are requested.

Thanks again and see you on June 11.

*Nick Vance, CGCS  
President, MAAGCS*

**GOLF NOTES**

Congratulations to our 1991 Superintendent/Pro winners. Coming in first for the third year in a row were Craig Rhodrick and Mike McGinnis from Holly Hills. Craig and Mike combined for a very fine score of 63.

Many thanks to Ben Stagg and his entire crew for an excellent golf course and a very enjoyable day. Along with that, thanks go to Mark Herrmann and his staff for all their help.

Our June meeting at Reston Golf Course will be hosted by Wayne Brissey. Golf for this month will be individual play with prizes awarded in both net and gross divisions. Limited tee times between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please call the pro shop for a starting time:

703-620-9333.

*Scott Wagner  
Golf Chairman, MAAGCS*

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## Clippings Disposal Getting Tougher

Because grass clippings take up valuable space in landfills, many states are passing legislation banning disposal of landscape material in these areas.

This issue is not only creating problems for homeowners and commercial property owners, but also for golf course superintendents, LCOs, landscape contractors and others who maintain properties and handle the organic waste and debris.

New Jersey was the first to adopt a statewide ban on curbside disposal of grass clippings and yard waste. Other states that have approved bans are Connecticut, Iowa, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Washington, D. C. and Wisconsin. Dozens of other communities are also banning curbside disposal of grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste.

Cities such as Madison, Wis., will not pick up bags of grass clippings or other yard waste. Instead, homeowners are encouraged to leave grass clippings where they fall.

According to the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, at least 10 states have less than five years of landfill capacity; 14 others have less than 10 years useable space. It is estimated that 20 percent of all municipal landfill space is taken up by landscape waste such as leaves, grass clippings and tree and shrub debris. By some estimates, half of our country's approximately 6,000 landfills will close by the turn of the century.

### Alternatives to collecting clippings

Alternatives to dumping grass clippings in landfills include "Grasscycling"—a program recently begun by PLCAA to

encourage homeowners to leave clippings on their lawns after mowing.

While homeowners are being encouraged to leave clippings where they fall, many golf course superintendents may have little choice but to do the same. This creates a growing problem on courses where aesthetics dictate the removal of clippings. As a result, a lot of superintendents are having to look at other options for disposing of clippings.

For example, at Kankakee Country Club in Kankakee, Ill.,

clippings and not enough rough."

In contrast, at Racebrook Country Club in Orange, Conn., John Gallagher III, golf course superintendent, has been composting clippings for the past four years.

Although this solution has been feasible in Gallagher's case, many golf course superintendents cannot instigate a composting plan due to the lack of a suitable site on the course.

"Clippings are always a problem," Gallagher says. "We dispose of them in a compost pile

### Pros and cons of leaving clippings on the lawn

The following are some commonly cited benefits and disadvantages of allowing clippings to remain on the lawn:

#### Benefits

1. There is no need to collect, bag and dispose of clippings in a landfill or compost pile.
2. The process of decomposition can benefit the turf by returning nutrients to the soil.
3. It saves time and work when mowing.
4. It eliminates hauling and disposal fees.
5. Works well when grass is mowed correctly and regularly, and when proper fertility and

water management techniques are also used.

6. No special equipment is needed.
7. It saves landfill space.

#### Drawbacks

1. If you wait too long between mowings or mow at an improper height, excessive clippings can be unsightly and detrimental to a lawn.
2. In states that forbid the disposal of landscape debris in landfills, managers of high-quality turf will have to compromise the aesthetic qualities they are accustomed to in some cases by leaving the clippings in place.

Greg Coyne, golf course superintendent, is no longer able to haul away his clippings to the local landfill.

To deal with the problem, Coyne has examined the alternatives of scattering clippings in the rough or composting them. However, his disposal options are limited by the size and layout of the golf course.

"I'm not able to dispose of them in the rough because these areas are frequently in play," he says. "We have too many clip-

ping in a wooded, unused area away from any houses. We add soil and leaves to the clippings and use the compost for flower gardens and new tree plantings."

Gallagher adds that a remote site is important in composting because the decomposing vegetation can give off an unpleasant odor that might be offensive to players or nearby residents.

However, even if a remote area is available, some superintendents may find they generate more compost than they can

**Clippings, continued from page 3**

possibly use. In fact, some cities and municipalities have started composting programs also have found little demand for composted yard waste.

In light of all these limited disposal options, some superintendents are examining the possibility of reducing the amount of clippings generated on their golf courses. This is where the use of turf growth regulators is beginning to play a role.

These products not only slow the growth of turfgrasses, they also cut down on mowing frequency and time, and help reduce the amount of clippings that need to be collected. In some cases, clippings can be left to decompose on the lawn because the reduced amount can easily deteriorate.

"Sooner or later we'll run out of space for composting," says Jim Piquette, golf course superintendent at the Firefly Golf Course in

Seekonk, Mass.

At present, Piquette disposes of clippings on the course or composts them. Therefore, for now, clippings disposal is not a problem. However, he admits that he anticipates a disposal problem in the future as space for composting becomes limited.

As he explains, "If we can reduce the clippings significantly with a growth regulator, it will be a great product regardless of what else it will do."

As a user of Cutless 50W plant growth regulator, Piquette says he has seen a 20 to 30 percent reduction in clippings.

Cutless is a foliar applied and root absorbed turf growth regulator that reduces internode elongation. Benefits of Cutless include:

- ✿ Improved turf quality and density of warm- and cool- season turfgrasses on golf course fairways, putting greens, bunkers, tees, green collars around traps

and cart paths and on hard-to-mow areas.

- ✿ Time and labor savings with hard-to-mow areas.

- ✿ It will be eventually be available for use by LCOs once application techniques are refined.

- ✿ Reduced turfgrass water use. Cutless has no adverse effects on roots and does not suppress the turf's development. It is absorbed by the plant's leaves and roots after irrigation or rainfall. □

*This article reprinted with permission from Panorama.*

**PS on composting**

Grass clippings by themselves are difficult to compost because of their high water and nitrogen content. Leaf mold or straw needs to be added to fresh grass clippings to achieve the desired high carbon-to-nitrogen ratio. This will also help reduce the offensive odor associated with anaerobic decomposition.

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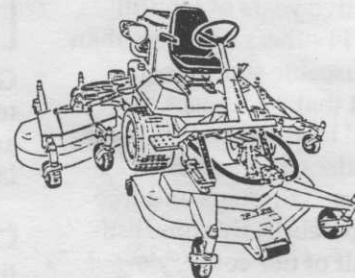
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## Environmental Fate

### Mobility and local conditions influence leaching potential

by Don Wauchope, Reprinted with permission from the Long Island GCSA newsletter

No one chemical characteristic indicates an ag chemical could be a hazard to groundwater. For each combination of an ag chemical and on each site, the potential for hazard can vary greatly.

Ag chemicals can reach groundwater when rainwater percolates through the soil and carries a chemical with it. Three things must happen before a chemical can move in the soil: rainfall occurs at the right time to provide the transport; the ag chemical must be mobile in the soil/and groundwater must be present.

There is no control over rainfall or the location of an aquifer. But two properties of an ag chemical can be used to determine its relative potential to be mobile: the ag chemical's tendency to absorb onto the soil particles; and its persistence or resistance to breakdown in the

soil. Strong absorption keeps the ag chemical at the soil surface so it's not carried downward by rainfall. A short persistence means the pesticide will degrade before it can travel far, even if it's not strongly absorbed.

#### Know your site

These factors only measure mobility potential and must be combined with knowledge of the local use situation. To estimate site-specific risks, ag chemical properties which measure mobility potential must be combined with such factors as the kind of soil, slope, depth to groundwater, potential for runoff, and expected uses of the ground and surface water.

Solubility, or the amount of material which can dissolve in water, has been often used as a measure of mobility. This is not a good idea. Although there is a tendency for more soluble ag

chemicals to be more mobile, it's only a general trend which is meaningless when specific chemicals are compared, even chemicals which differ as much as a factor of ten in solubility. There are big exceptions to the trend: there are extremely soluble chemicals that are totally immobile in the soil and there are very insoluble ones which are relatively mobile.

Formulation type can also determine how easily a pesticide gets below the soil surface and can have an effect on runoff tendency.

Dealers who want to assist their customers in making decisions on pest control choices that are safer for groundwater should use both soil and chemical information to begin asking questions. Local extension agents and soil conservation agents can offer assistance, as can local USDA-ARS

Continued on page 6

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## The State of Posting Laws

Maryland has recently joined the ranks of states requiring that signs be posted when pesticides are applied.

Currently, nine other states require posting: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, and Vermont.

Posting rules and regulations vary, but fortunately, those for golf courses are relatively straightforward. Generally, you are required to post at the first and tenth tees.

The sign itself must:

- ✓ state any pesticides that have been applied within the past 24 hours
- ✓ indicate the areas that have been sprayed
- ✓ provide a contact person so that people can inquire about the pesticide applied on a particular day.

## GCSAA to Appeal Adverse Ruling

In a May 13 memorandum to the membership, GCSAA President Stephen Cadenelli announced that a Topeka, Kan. federal court jury awarded \$1.46 million to James McLoughlin, GCSAA executive director from 1980-83, in a breach of contract and libel suit against the association. However, the jury also found that current Executive Director John Schilling and former employee James Prusa were not guilty of any acts of wrongdoing.

Says Cadenelli, "GCSAA does not agree with the verdict and will file post-trial motions and vigorously pursue an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit to reverse the award.

"The award and subsequent appeals processes will have no effect on GCSAA's business operations or membership services."

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Caves Valley GC; Class B  
Jeffrey C. Wolfe  
Queenstown Harbour GL; Class D

Environment, continued from page 5

scientists and state water specialists. Ag chemical use decisions must be based on all considerations unique to each area.

*Don Wauchope is a USDA-ARS chemist and water quality specialist at the University of Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Georgia.*



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Fertilizers, SUSTANE NATURAL ORGANIC; fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, etc. Grass seeds: Bents/Ryes/Fescues/Blues, etc. Wildflowers; HARFORD MINERALS TD1000/SAND CMPLUS; limestone; gypsum; wetting agents.

Tom Malehorn 301-876-7474

Robert Kerr 703-786-3405

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# Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Supporters

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## RUSSELL ROBERTS CO., INC.

Golf course design and construction.  
**Russell Roberts** 301-253-4066  
**Jack Roberts** 301-762-3270  
**Jimmy Roberts** 301-977-7961

## SCOTTS PROTURF DIVISION

Soil testing, programming, turf technology, fertilizers to meet today's needs. Herbicides—monocot and dicot weed problems. Growth regulators—new technology, Poa control.

**Robert Herring** Va: 804-747-7027  
**Rich Schneider** Md: 301-855-1366

## SHARE CORPORATION

Liquid turf maintenance products, equipment maintenance products. **Milwaukee, WI** 414-355-4000  
**Ed Howser** Western Shore: 301-465-8154  
**Ed Howser Jr.** Eastern Shore: 301-482-6929  
**Tom Howser** Shenandoah Area: 301-729-1206

## SHEMIN NURSERIES, INC.

4100 Sandy Spring Rd, Burtonsville, Md.  
 One-stop horticultural distribution center. Trees, plant material, specimen plants, annuals, perennials, grass seed, fertilizers, mulch, irrigation.  
**Carl S. Ballas** 301-424-1220

## STH, INC. - THE PUMP PEOPLE

SYNCRIFLO Packaged irrigation pump stations (automatically controlled). Verticle Turbines, Centrifugals & Boosters. Installation, start-up, winterization & turn-key packages. CLA-VAL distributor. *We stock CLA-VAL parts.* Complete service dept. Most brands serviced!

**Bob Calkins** 800-233-7718

## STOUT ENVIRONMENTAL, INC./ DELMARVA DRILLING COMPANY

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**William J. Jefferys** 301-793-0219  
**R. Michael Collison** De: 302-337-8254

## SUMMIT HALL TURF FARM, INC.

Meyer Z-52 Zoysia (sod or plugs), premium Bluegrass blend (sod), improved Tall Fescue blend (sod), Penncross Bentgrass (sod), pelletized lime, Androgrow fertilizer products and custom blends, chemicals (herbicides, fungicides & insecticides) 60% WDG Pendi-methalin.

**Brian K. Finger, Frank H. Wilmot** 301-948-2900

## SYDNOR HYDRODYNAMICS, INC.

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Serving MD, VA, N.C. **Richmond: 804-643-2725**  
 Emergency after hrs: 804-257-7773

## TEBCO IRRIGATION

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**Todd E. Bahnmann** 301-856-5194

## TERRY ASPHALT

P.O. Box 104, Glen Arm, MD 21057  
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## TURF CENTER, INC.

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**Diana Patton, Emory Patton, Dave Van Kirk**  
 301-384-6300

## TURF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY, INC.

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**Bill Hughes, Lynn Matson, Ron Hawkins, Lance Ernst, Mike Minard, Paul Standerfer, Todd Cowing, Marty Haske**  
 Balt: 301-796-5575  
 D.C. Area: 301-621-2975

## VIGORO INDUSTRIES INC

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**R. A. "Dick" Doyle** 301-357-8056  
**Vigoro Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 512,**  
 Winter Haven, FL 33882-0512 813-294-2567

## Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

**Betty C. Ford**  
 12704 Rigdale Terrace  
 Silver Spring, MD 20904  
 301-384-9666



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