

Turfgrass Matters



March 1991, vol. 44, no. 1

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Wade Barrett to host March 12 meeting at Poolesville Golf Course

Wade Barrett, superintendent of the Poolesville Golf Course, will host the first meeting of 1991 on March 12.

Now a public course operated by the Montgomery County Revenue Authority, Poolesville was founded as River Road Country Club, built by Bernie Segal and designed by Ed Ault. The club was leased by ITT for a time before F. O. Day bought it in 1977 and renamed it Potomac Valley Country Club.

The course is 6,478 from the white tees, 6,757 from the blue and 5,599 from the white. Par is 71 for men, 73 for women. Poolesville receives about 45,000 rounds annually.

Fairways and tees are mowed three to four times a week at 5/8", greens every day at 3/16". The greens are Cohansy bentgrass and poa. "The fairways were bluegrass and fescue until 1983 when I started overseeding the tees and fairways with rye—the traffic is so much heavier now." Greens and tees receive three to four pounds N a year.

Wade and his staff of four full-time employees are currently putting in blacktop cart paths. "We'll get back at it again as soon as the weather breaks." In 1985 they installed a ToroVaritime-2, fully automatic irrigation system.

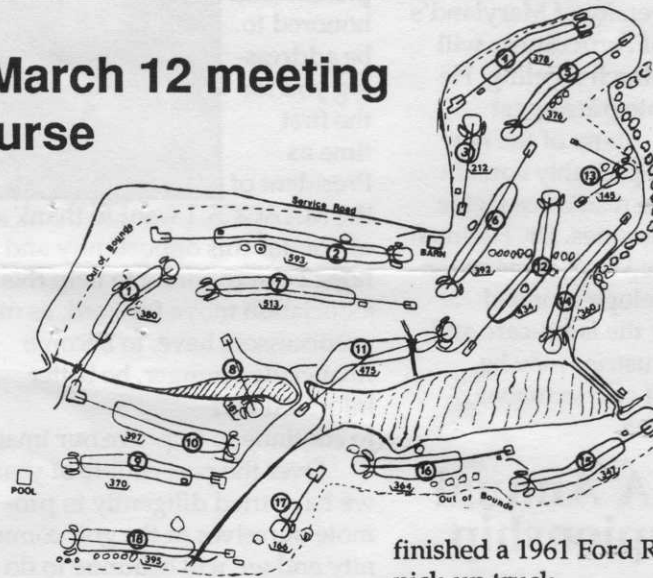
Wade, who has been superintendent since 1983 was an assistant at Potomac Valley for four years prior to that. Before that he worked as an auto mechanic. This,

he declares, was an excellent career move. Getting under a hot car in 90-degree weather was not too appealing, while being a superintendent affords a lot of variety.

Working at the golf course provided another important benefit for Wade—it's where he met his wife Shelley. She was assistant manager when the club was owned by F. O. Day. When Day sold the course she lost her job. Shelley took this opportunity to go to law school, graduated in 1987 and is now an Assistant States Attorney in Frederick County.

Wade enjoys playing golf, although he claims he's not very good. He finds it relaxing except on his own course. "It's hard to play where you work. You see golfers riding golf carts across tees, and worse.

For true relaxation, however, Wade prefers hunting and fishing. He has a 19-foot boat he takes to the Delaware River. He also enjoys restoring cars; he just



finished a 1961 Ford Ranchero pick-up truck.

Wade hopes you will come out and enjoy your day.

Cocktails from 6 to 7 p.m., dinner at 7. Cost is \$25. For reservations call 301-381-0030.

Directions

From Baltimore:

Take I-70 west to I-270 south to Rte. 124 west, to Darnestown Rd (Rte. 28). Follow Darnestown Rd. to Whites Ferry Rd (Rte. 107), left on Whites Ferry Rd. to Poolesville. Left on West Willard Rd., 1.5 miles to Poolesville Golf Course entrance.

From Virginia:

Take I-495 to I-270 north to Rte. 124. Then follow above directions.

Golf notes

Golf will be from 12 to 1:30. Call for tee times: 301-428-8143. Lunch is available. Golf will be Scotch Doubles, combined handicap 15-50, alternate shot after the first tee, and half of the combined handicap to figure the net score.

Note: Due to renovations, no showers are available. But don't let that discourage you. It should be a cool day.

Hellman to address March meeting

Dr. Lee Hellman, an entomologist with the University of Maryland's Department of Agriculture, will speak at the March meeting. He will discuss integrated pest management. Many of the new seed lines will probably contain endophytes—a resistance factor found in turf grasses. Dr. Hellman has investigated how some of the strategies developed for sod farms, and for the lawn-care and landscape industries may be applied to golf course management techniques.

GCSAA Annual Championship

The MAAGCS had three chapter teams entered in the Annual GCSAA tournament in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mid-Atlantic Team #2 finished four points short of winning a trophy and Team #1 was 3 points behind them.

From the 18 individual entries, however, we had four winners: Glen Smickley, Robert Trent Jones Int. won Low Gross in the first flight (Hdcp. 7-12) and Nick Vance, Laytonville Golf Course, won 8th Low Gross.

Also in the first flight Ken (The Sandman) Braun, Bonnieview Country Club, won Low Net and Steve (Little Sandy) Cohoon, Stonehenge Golf and Country Club, won 4th Low Net.

The overall tournament champion was Roger Null, from St. Louis, Mo. Roger is the second three-time winner of the event. Dave Powell of Charlotte, N.C., who was runner-up to Roger this year, is the other three-time winner.

Congratulations to all.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased and honored to be addressing you for the first time as President of the MAAGCS. I want to thank all of you for this opportunity and I hope I can continue to help this association move forward, as my predecessors have, to become financially stronger, be better informed and to continue to improve our image.



Over the past couple of years we have tried diligently to promote ourselves in the golf community and we will continue to do so. Our association, like all associations, is only as good as its members, therefore we have to pull together to make the golf community aware of who we are and what we do.

The officers and directors listed in this issue will be more than happy to listen to any request or suggestion that can benefit our organization and its members.

Dean Graves, our education chairman, has been working very hard to set up a good program for this year. Also, golf chairman Scott Wagnor, has a number of new ideas to make our outings more enjoyable.

Please plan to attend our first meeting at Poolesville Golf Course on March 12. The golf course is fun to play and our guest speaker is the renowned Dr. Lee Hellman. Dr. Hellman is always an interesting speaker. He seems to make learning fun.

See you on March 12.

*Nick Vance, C.G.C.S.
President, MAAGCS*

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In the absence of the President, shall perform all duties of the President. He shall serve on each committee. He will secure meeting sites for the succeeding year. He will provide a copy of the host check list to each club and/or host for their reference.

Secretary—Lou Rudinski
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301-222-7923

Shall maintain the minutes of the Association. Will provide a copy of such to each board member prior to regularly scheduled meetings as well as the meeting agenda. Will be responsible for handling all correspondence of the Association.

Treasurer—Steve Potter
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301-486-8280.

Bill, collect and bank all Association funds. Prepare financial statements and file with the IRS.

Education—Dean Graves
Bethesda Country Club
301-365-0100

Obtain speakers/topics for all monthly meetings. Will provide feedback to the Maryland Turfgrass Council and will promote seminars. He will coordinate CEU credit through the GCSAA.

Golf Chairman—Scott Wagnor
Leisure World
301-598-1580

Will plan and supervise all golf

See Board, page 4

Turfgrass 91--Success in the Snow

by Diana Patton

The 15th Annual Maryland Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show was held the week of January 7 at the Baltimore Convention Center and Festival Hall in Baltimore. The weather for the week was the worst of the year; however, in spite of this, turnout was good for the three days of educational sessions. Speakers for these sessions came from across the country as well as Maryland and spoke on varied agronomic and management topics in the turf field. Elections were held at the Monday morning session; Keith Patton assumed role as President, backed by Steve Potter for Vice President. New Board Members

include Tammy Crowder and Eugene Roberts. In his President's address, Keith stressed the importance of the membership to the Council. Membership is not just the 13 Board Members but every person attending the conference.

The Trade Show, which opened Monday evening with a reception, offered 18 hours of show time. Exhibits covered over 26,000 square feet thus giving us a slight increase from our 1990 Show. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres were a highlight of the Tuesday evening show.

Anyone having ideas for the 1992 Conference please contact Tom Turner 301-405-1339 or one of your Board Members.

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Continued on page 7

Winter turfgrass diseases

Three major turf diseases are active in winter. Information in this article will help you identify the ones to look out for

By Peter H. Dernoeden, department of agronomy, University of Maryland—College Park
This article is reprinted with permission from Grounds Maintenance magazine

Snow protects dormant turfgrass plants from desiccation and frost. Unfortunately, it also creates a favorable microenvironment for low-temperature, pathogenic fungi development. There is no shortage of cold-weather fungal species, and many damage turf between late fall and early spring.

The most common low-temperature fungal diseases are pink snow mold and gray snow mold. Yellow patch is also common on putting greens during cool moist periods in late fall or early spring.

Snow mold fungi are remarkably active at temperatures slightly above freezing. They damage turf that is dormant or growing slowly because of low temperatures. Cold weather and dormancy prevent turfgrasses from defending themselves against fungal invasion.

Although known as snow molds, these fungi attack turf with or without snow cover. Cool to cold (32 to 60° F) temperatures and abundant surface moisture favor disease development.

Pink Snow Mold

Pathogen: *Microdochium nivale* (formerly called *Gerlachia nivalis* and *Fusarium nivale*)

Conditions: Several conditions encourage pink snow mold—low

to moderate temperatures, plenty of moisture, long-lasting deep snow, snow on unfrozen ground and alkaline soil. Turf stimulated by excess nitrogen applied late in the season is usually more susceptible.

In the absence of snow, this disease may be called *Microdochium* patch. Previously, it was called *Fusarium* patch. *Microdochium* patch is most severe during extended periods of 50 to 55°F temperatures and overcast, wet drizzly or foggy weather.

Machinery and foot traffic easily spread spores. The pathogen survives unfavorable environmental conditions as spores and as viable resting mycelia in plant debris.

Hosts: Most species that grow in heavy snowfall regions are susceptible, especially annual bluegrass and bentgrasses. In areas where heavy snow cover is uncommon, hosts are perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass and creeping red fescue.

Symptoms: Small (2- to 3-in.), water-soaked patches appear in the turf. These may grow to 1 or 2 feet in diameter, and several spots may join to form one large spot. Pinkish mycelia produce the pink color along the edges of the patches. The mycelia mats leaves, and plants eventually collapse and

die. The pathogen frequently invades crown tissues and kills turf.

Without snow, patches vary from 1/2 to 3 inches in diameter. At first, the patches are red or orange-brown. When the disease subsides, the dead patches turn gray.

Patches are larger (6 inches to 2 feet) at snow melt or under snow cover. When active, the outer edge of the patch is distinctively pink while the inner portion is usually tan or gray.

Signs: The pinkish mycelia at the edge of affected patches is a key diagnostic sign. Mycelia on the leaf blades produce fruiting bodies (sporodochia) that bear spores in large numbers. Through a microscope, you will see canoe-shaped spores.

Gray snow mold

Pathogen: *Typhula incarnata* or *Typhula ishikariensis*

Conditions: Gray snow mold, or *Typhula* blight, usually develops under snow cover or at snow melt. This disease can occur when there is no snow, but it is most damaging under deep, long-lasting snow. It can be particularly bad under a heavy snowfall on unfrozen ground.

Gray snow mold begins its disease cycle as a saprophyte

colonizing dead organic matter. Under snow, the fungus moves onto living leaves and sheaths. It may invade the crown. Normally, *Typhula* does not completely kill the crowns so plants recover in spring.

Hosts: Most species in heavy snowfall regions are susceptible, especially creeping bentgrass, annual bluegrass and Kentucky bluegrass. Where heavy snowfall is uncommon, hosts are perennial ryegrass, red fescue and tall fescue.

Symptoms: Light brown to gray, 2- to 4-in. patches mark the turf. These patches enlarge to 2-ft across and join to blight large areas.

Signs: When the disease is active, you will see grayish mycelia matting leaf tissues. In spring, distinctive chestnut-brown or black sclerotia develop on leaves or between leaf sheaths. Sclerotia are hard, compact masses of mycelia enclosed in a dark, protective rind. Sizes range from a speck to 1/8-inch in diameter. Sclerotia may be round or oblong. When cool, moist weather returns in late fall, sclerotia germinate. They produce either mycelia or a specialized fruiting body that bears spores. Both *Typhula* species that attack turf produce similar symptoms. Pathologists use sclerotial color to differentiate between the two.

Yellow Patch

Pathogen: *Rhizoctonia cerealis*

Conditions: Yellow patch, also called cool-temperature brown patch, occurs between late fall and late spring. It is most active during extended periods of late winter or spring when temperatures are 40 to 60°F and weather is wet, foggy or drizzly.

Hosts: Creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass putting greens.

Occasional hosts: Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass.

Symptoms: This disease frequently attacks putting greens producing rusty-brown and yellow rings or patches. Size varies from a few inches to a foot or more in diameter. Damage is usually superficial. Thinning may occur if weather is wet and overcast for a prolonged period in late winter or early spring.

Signs: Mycelia are present during early morning hours if turf is moist. Mycelia may be difficult to see without a microscope.

Other winter diseases

Red thread, *Laetisaria fuciformis*, and leaf spot, *Drechslera* sp., may be active during winter or early spring. Temperatures above freezing and overcast, wet weather favor these diseases.

Other winter diseases occur in the mountainous regions of the United States, in the tier states along the Canadian border and in Canada. Among these are snow scald, *Myriosclerotinia borealis*, and Coprinus snow mold, *Coprinus psychromorbidus*, also called LTB or SLTB. Pathologists have isolated these diseases from the heavy snowfall regions of Minnesota and Canada, but the diseases undoubtedly exist in other areas.

Recently, there have been reports of *Pythium* species attacking putting greens in late winter or early spring. However, aerial mycelia, which develop in the field and are common *Pythium* blight indicators in summer, are missing from these observations. Researchers must learn more about the biology of the cool-temperature *Pythium* species involved and how best to control the diseases they cause.

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Continued from page 5

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1991 Meeting Schedule

Date	Site	Host	Speaker/Topic/ Program
March 12	Poolesville Golf Course	Wade Barrett	Dr. Lee Hellman <i>Integrated Pest Mgt.</i>
April 9	Hillendale Country Club	Jeff Blind	Thomas Lingan <i>Liability & Risk Mgt.</i>
May 14	Hog Neck Golf Course	Ben Stagg	<i>Superintendent- Pro Tournament</i>
June 11	Preston Golf Course	Wayne Brissey	Mike Waldron, LPGA <i>Tourney Preparation</i>
July 9 (Two-Man Team)	Turf Valley Country Club	Mike Gilmore	Dr. Tom Watschke <i>Fate of Pesticides</i>
Wed. Aug. 14	Bretton Woods Rec. Center	Larry Ott	<i>Annual Picnic</i>
September 10	Prince Georges Country Club	Mike Evans	Mary Ellen Setting <i>Pesticide Storage</i>
October 8	Breton Bay Golf & Country Club	Bernie Beavan	<i>Annual Tourney</i>
November 12	Wakefield Valley Golf Club	Gary Angell	Brian Silva, <i>Golf Course Construction</i>
December 10	Sparrows Point Country Club	Kevin Pryseski	<i>Annual Election</i>

(Note: **Boldface** indicates change from last published schedule.)

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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