

Turfgrass Matters



November 1991, vol. 44, no. 9

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Gary Angell and Wakefield Valley to host November 12 meeting

Wakefield Valley Golf Club, a semi-private facility in Westminster, Md. is the site of the November meeting.

The original owner, Dr. Earl Griswald, a professor at Western Maryland College, decided to convert the former dairy farm into a golf course. The original nine holes were built in 1978, and in 1980 what was then the back nine were opened. In 1983 Hank Majeski, then pro at Hobbits Glen and president of the Mid-Atlantic PGA, bought the course. In June 1987 the third nine were opened.

A local landscape architect designed the first 18 holes. Russell Roberts, in conjunction with Majeski, designed the third nine and has supervised all subsequent renovations.

The greens are Pencross bentgrass, the tees and fairways bluegrass, with the exception of one or two ryegrass or zoysia tees. "The bluegrass has done pretty well," says superintendent Gary Angell. "It's less humid in this area so we have fewer disease problems. There's a possibility we might change over to ryegrass in the future, but for now we are going to stay with the bluegrass. If I could get plenty of water, it would do just fine.

"We couldn't water the fairways this year; we didn't have enough water. Our irrigation pond is stream-fed. We have filed for well permits, but, this summer,

we had only enough water for the tees and greens, so the fairways browned out. There was a certain percentage of dieback, but they came back real well. There was one good thing about this summer," notes Gary. "What little poa we had was really knocked out. The bluegrass came back strong on top of it."

Says Gary, "I think the main attraction of the course is the setting, the layout. There are valleys and hills and you can see most of the golf course from wherever you are."

The course has already been the site of some pro tournaments. "We have had the U.S. Open quals here two out of the last three years," says Gary.

The brand new clubhouse at Wakefield Valley opened in September—Gary and his crew are just completing the landscaping. The building has a restaurant and banquet facilities that are open to the public. The original clubhouse—i.e. the former farmhouse, next door to the new clubhouse—was built in 1767. It now contains offices, but plans are for some of the rooms to be converted into meeting rooms. A patio and yard area are used for summer outings.

Gary, who completed a four-year degree in the turf program at the University of Maryland, worked as an assistant at Wakefield Valley from 1979 to

1983. He then took the position of grounds maintenance supervisor at nearby Western Maryland College. His duties included care of the nine-hole golf course, the athletic fields and the campus itself—a total of about 50 acres. "I grew up just alongside the course. I learned to play golf there," notes Gary.

In 1986 Wakefield's superintendent moved. Gary applied for and won the position. The third nine was just being completed when he took over.

Gary now lives near the entrance to the course in one of two houses that were on the dairy farm. He finds it a great advantage to live so close, but, he admits, it makes it difficult to forget work-related problems.

When not on the job, Gary likes to play golf, especially on other courses. He hopes to take his assistant, Todd Eckinroad—one of the better golfers in the area—to more superintendents' outings. Gary also enjoys other sports—he's an especially big fan of Caps Hockey. However, most of his spare time these days is devoted to family. His three children ages 11, 9, and 7, are all involved in school and community sports and activities.

Gary hopes you will all come out for the first meeting of MAAGCS here.

Directions and golf notes on page 3.

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Ladies Night

Ladies Night this year promises to be a gala affair. It will take place on Saturday November 16 at Turf Valley Hotel and Country Club in Ellicott City, Md. from 7:30 to 11:30. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will be served before the dinner of mesquite grilled chicken breast and Maryland crab cakes. "Final Touch," the three-piece band, will entertain. Two night clubs stay open for after-hours entertainment, and hotel rooms are available on request. Call 301-465-1500. Watch for your announcement in the mail.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month I have had a very difficult time putting down my thoughts for this space we call "The President's Message." A lot of the things I would like to say can't be printed, and some of them would serve no purpose even if they are true.



After a season like the one the Mid-Atlantic has had, we would all like to complete our renovations, prepare for winter and be ready for a welcome new season in the spring.

Some of us are not that fortunate. Some folks are having to sharpen up their resumes to send to every golf course in the area that is looking for a "new" superintendent to do the job the other person couldn't do this year. Why??

Not why do it. We all know why we are in this business. The question is "why do we have to?" Is it something we are doing wrong, something we are not doing, or do we have any control over the situation at all?

The one thing that has me most concerned is the lack of loyalty in this industry these days.

If someone loses their job because they are not doing it properly, what great change can they make overnight to give them the ability to move to another place with the same problems and perform there? If there is not an obvious answer to that question then maybe that person was doing the best that could have been done under the circumstances.

Again, if that is true, where is the loyalty. Although we would all like to be able to trust *all* the people we work for and with, and

we would like everyone to be up front with us, that seems to be unrealistic. This is a business, and like all businesses, it has its share of people who will sidestep moral issues to get something they want.

We can't stop a lot of that from happening, but maybe we can help our own cause. Perhaps one thing we could do is learn to call on others for help if we think we need it. Pride is a good thing, but it can be very dangerous.

Also, we are all responsible for our own actions, and maybe we could or should have been better prepared for tougher conditions and situations.

Jobs, like marriages, need understanding from both parties. And, like marriages, when things are tough we don't need that third party making waves. When that

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does happen, though, we can still decide our own fate. The one thing we must be prepared to do, however, is walk away with the understanding that it probably wasn't a good relationship anyway. Somehow the trust was destroyed.

In any case, if we are going to keep these relationships alive, we must realize that the way we perceive things and the actions we take to correct the things we see as being detrimental to that relationship, rest totally on the individual. We can't always help being blindsided, but we can look from side to side to see what might be there.

*Nick Vance, CGCS
President, MAAGCS*

GOLF NOTES

Congratulations to Dean Graves, 1991 annual champion, who shot an even par 72 to win the Bill Glover Award. Gordon Caldwell won the O.B. Fitts award for low net with an impressive score of 69.

A hearty thank-you to Bernie Beaven and his staff for a fantastic golf course. A special thanks to Bob Arnold and the pro shop staff for making our day a great success.

Our November meeting at Wakefield Valley will feature golf with a **12 noon shotgun start**. Our tournament this month will be a scramble event. If you are going to play, **please call me at 598-1580 before Saturday, November 8**. This will allow me time to put the teams together before our event on the 12th. When calling please leave your name and handicap. Don't forget to call, and we will see you at Wakefield Valley.

Scott Wagner
Golf Chairman, MAAGCS

Bruce Marcus to address November meeting

The speaker for the November MAAGCS meeting will be Bruce L. Marcus, an attorney practicing in Prince George's County. Mr. Marcus will discuss contracts and employment.

A partner in the firm of Marcus & Bonsib, whose offices are in Greenbelt, Mr. Marcus has been practicing law since 1980. He serves as Special Counsel for the Prince George's County Government and was Senior Trial Counsel, Felony Division, in the Office of the Public Defender of Prince George's County.

A graduate of Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University, Mr. Marcus has taught and lectured extensively. He has been a member of the faculty of Prince George's Community College and has been active in continuing legal education programs. He is co-author of "Eyewitness Identification," for the Maryland Institute for Con-

tinuing Professional Education for Lawyers, and of the Annual Criminal Trial Practice Manual since 1986.

Because he is an experienced lecturer and educator, and because his topic is so timely, this promises to be an important evening.

November Meeting

Dinner:

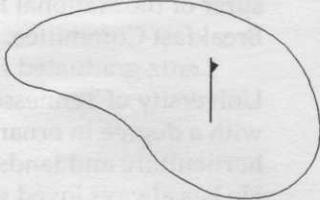
Time: Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. *Cost:* \$25; cash bar.

Directions:

From Baltimore: Take I-795 to Rt 140 west. Go approximately 2 miles to the first blinking light at Rt 31. Turn left. Go to the 2nd traffic light and turn right onto Uniontown Rd. Go about 1 mile to Bell Rd. (first road after the school on the left). Turn left at sign to Wakefield Valley.

From D.C.: I-270 to Rt. 27 north to Rt. 140 west and follow directions above. Or Rt. 97 to Rt. 140 west and follow directions above.

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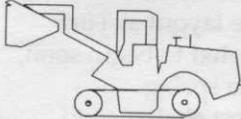


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Candidates for MAAGCS Board of Directors *election slated for December*

Mike Gilmore, superintendent at Turf Valley Golf Course in Ellicott City, Md., has been a member of MAAGCS since 1983.

A native of Lutherville, Md., Mike graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Stockbridge and began his career at Woodmont Country club working for Mike Larsen. "He was," notes Mike, "a big influence on me. I learned a lot of valuable information there." Mike then spent a year at Glendale Country Club in Greenbelt before becoming a superintendent for the Baltimore Golf Corporation which supervises five public courses. Before beginning his job at Turf Valley, however, he was superintendent for two years at Clifton Park and two years at Mount Pleasant.

Mike is in his second year at Turf Valley, a 45-hole private golf and resort facility. His big project since coming here has been to rebuild a dozen or so tees—six or seven on the north course and four or five on the south course. In addition, Mike and the crew have done extensive planting this year; annual and perennial beds added a lot to the courses and grounds.

Construction of the final nine holes, designed by Ed Ault—as was the entire layout at Turf Valley—is slated to begin soon, perhaps in the spring.

The biggest challenge to overseeing 45 holes is the organization, Mike declares. He credits his smooth-running operation to the help and enthusiasm of three excellent assistants. "You're only as good as the people you have working for you and their willingness to carry out plans. They are the ones who make my job easier."

Most of Mike's off-hours are spent with his family. Newest member, Christopher Michael, born September 12, occupies much of his time and attention, but the other three, Lucas, Megen and Katie—the youngest of whom is eight—are a big help. When he does have time for golf these days, he prefers to play on other courses—he'd rather not look at his own problems, he laughs.

Bill Shirk, superintendent of Queenstown Harbor Golf Links, Queenstown, Md., has been a member of MAAGCS since 1978 and a member of National since 1972. He became CGCS in 1989. Bill is a board member of the Maryland Turfgrass Council and has held all offices in the Eastern Shore Superintendents' Association.

Bill has been at Queenstown Harbor just over a year, coming to this position from Prospect Bay Country Club, also on the Eastern Shore. Prior to that Bill was superintendent at Seaford Golf and Country Club in Seaford, De.

Bill graduated from Penn State with a degree in turf management in 1972 and worked at Sparrows Point Country Club while in school.

Queenstown Harbor is a brand new 27-hole course, just opened July 1. Designed by Lindsey Ervin, it is unique in that it is on 750 acres on the Chesapeake Bay where there are no houses; the Critical Areas Commission finally consented to their building a pro-shop. Arthur Birney, who has owned the farm for 22 years and wanted to turn it into an elite public course, had quite an ordeal getting permits. With so much wetlands area to

negotiate, the process took seven years and about 43 public hearings.

Bill, who has been on site since the first shovel of dirt was turned, has had a very good year. The bentgrass fairways at Queenstown have done well. "I'm impressed with it," he says. This turf requires less maintenance than ryegrass or bluegrass, he finds.

Is it very exciting open a new course, and to be in on construction from the beginning? "Yes," says Bill, "I did the same thing at Prospect Bay. I've done it twice. This will probably be the last time."

Bill enjoys golf, fishing and activities with his children, Adrian, 9, and Ashley, 7.

Lentz Wheeler, superintendent of Hidden Creek Country Club, Reston, Va., has been a member of MAAGCS since 1983. He has held three offices in the Greater Washington Association—president, vice president and secretary, and is currently treasurer of the National Prayer Breakfast Committee.

Lentz graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1979 with a degree in ornamental horticulture and landscape design. He has always loved golf and became interested in the turfgrass aspect because of that. He also took a grad-level golf course design course while in college.

Lentz has been superintendent at Hidden Creek since November 1987. Prior to that he was superintendent at Reston Golf Course. After he took over Hidden Creek, he ran both courses for three years. He began working at Reston in 1980 and became their

superintendent in 1981.

Hidden Creek has ryegrass fairways, ryegrass and bentgrass tees, poa and bentgrass greens. The course did pretty well this summer. Although he had problems, they were no worse than anyone else suffered, he declared. "Our roughs are in bad shape right now. They are not filling back in like they should, but overall, we didn't do too badly."

Lentz' major projects at Hidden Creek include building eight tees in the last two years, one new green and putting in a cart path on all 18 holes. In the future they hope to replace the antique irrigation system, but in the meantime, they will be putting in about 35 lateral lines to catch some of the rough and will continue building tees.

Lentz and his wife Jane, a third grade teacher in Fairfax County, have lived in their new

house in Herndon since December. They both keep busy chasing two-year-old David. "He's wired," says his father. Lentz' other big preoccupation is Tennessee football—he's a diehard fan. He has two tickets on the 50-yard line for the Notre Dame game on November 9.

Environmental General Session Slated for GCSAA Conference

On Friday, February 14, 1992, Victor Kimm, the Environmental Protection Agency's deputy administrator of pesticide programs, will speak about how EPA's Pollution Prevention Program will affect pesticide use and availability. Jay Feldman, the national coordinator for the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP), will talk about pesticide use risks

from NCAMP's perspective. John Stossel, ABC-TV "20/20" correspondent, will comment on the media's perspective and interpretation of pesticide use on golf courses.

This Environmental General Session is being offered to further enhance our members', and the industry's, understanding of today's pesticide issues. The recent Supreme Court decision concerning pesticide use, along with stepped-up media scrutiny, has led many in our communities to question all chemical usage.

Put this program on your itinerary if you are going to be in New Orleans for the Annual Conference.

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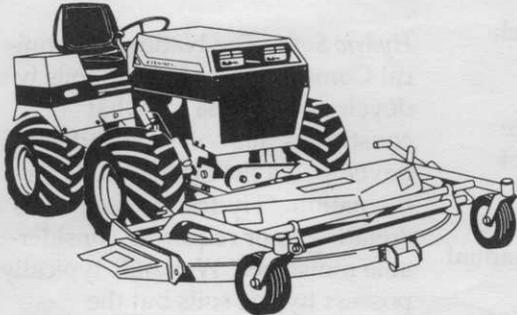
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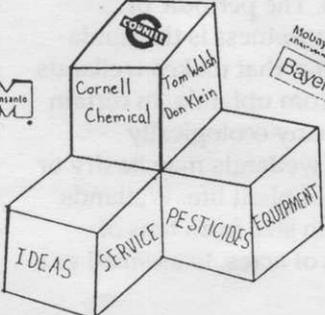
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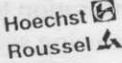
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Wetlands Revisions and Definitions Proposed

by Don Bretthauer, Government Relations Manager, GCSAA

Proposed revisions to the 1989 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands were published by EPA in the Federal Register on August 14. Wetlands protection continues to be an important issue in golf course management, especially in managing construction and renovation projects. The following information summarizes the document that EPA provided to GCSAA. The information may be dry (pardon the pun), but basic understanding of wetlands determination and characteristics is important for today's golf course superintendent.

Definition

Wetlands are areas where land and water meet. In general, they are lands that are either inundated with surface water or saturated by groundwater long enough during the growing season to make it necessary for the vegetation to adapt to growing in saturated soil conditions. The periodic or permanent wetness is the fundamental factor that makes wetlands different from uplands. In certain seasons, many ecologically important wetlands may be dry or lack signs of plant life. Wetlands can range in size from tens of thousands of acres, to as small as a table top.

Proposed changes

The major changes would serve to increase the burden of proof required to identify and delineate a wetland. Clarifying and restricting the manner in which field indicators are used to determine whether the three criteria (see box)

are met should simplify wetlands delineation.

Except in limited specified circumstances, demonstration of all three parameters (wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils) should be required for delineating vegetated wetlands. The exceptions to this rule would apply to a disturbed wetland area or an area specifically listed in the proposed Federal Manual.

Wetland types that are widely recognized as valuable, but may fail to meet one or more of the

Wetlands can range in size from tens of thousands of acres, to as small as a table top.

three criteria during all or some part of the year, are listed as exceptions. These include such areas as a playa lake, prairie pothole and vernal pools.

Another proposed change would lengthen the periods of inundation to 15 days and of saturation to 21 days during the growing season. (The 1989 manual required only seven days of inundation or saturation during the growing season.) The changes would also require saturation all the way to the soil surface. Localized differences in the growing season would also be considered.

The revised hydric soils criterion would specifically state that hydric soil exists in a potential wetland area.

Three Criteria for Identifying Wetlands

Wetland Hydrology—The presence of water is what makes a wetland a wetland. Unless specifically addressed in the proposed revised Federal Manual as exceptions or disturbed areas, areas without any of the hydrologic indicators provided in the proposed Federal manual are considered non-wetland areas.

Hydrophytic Vegetation—The term "hydrophytic vegetation" refers to plants that live in "wet" conditions. However, the majority of plant species growing in wetland areas also grow in non-wetlands or in upland areas. Thus, plants alone cannot be used to identify and delineate wetlands. If a plant species found in an area primarily occurs in wetlands (in a particular region), this fact is a consideration for wetland determination.

Hydric Soil—The National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils has developed criteria for what constitutes this soil type and has developed a list of these soils for the nation. "Hydric" is defined as "relating to or requiring considerable moisture." Wetlands typically possess hydric soils but the presence of hydric soil indicators does not necessarily mean that the area is a wetland.

In most cases, all three of the above characteristics must be met in order for a geographic area to be considered a wetland.

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