

Turfgrass Matters



December 1992, vol. 45, no. 10

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Dave Rudinski to Host December 8 Meeting at Rolling Road

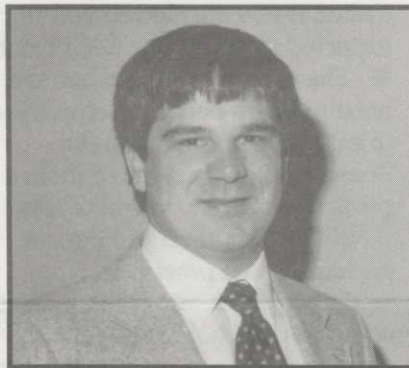
December's meeting, the final meeting of the year, will be held at Rolling Road Golf Club in Catonsville.

It is interesting that Dave Rudinski, one of the younger superintendents, works at one of the older courses in the association. Dave began there this May; the course opened in 1918.

The course's 90 acres was originally part of Charles Carroll's estate; he presented it to his daughter when she married Charles Caton. In the late 1800s the property became part of "Farmlands," purchased by the Lurmans. In 1881 Gustav Lurman built a stone clubhouse and called the property Blumsbury Farms. In 1916 Catonsville Country Club bought the property. During the next year, the members themselves built the first nine holes. By 1918 they were playing golf, driving to the course by horse and carriage. In 1922 the members decided to enlarge the course to 18 holes. The design was accomplished by Willie Park, Jr., one of the most respected architects in the history of golf. In 1959, the members purchased club.

David grew up in the business. As most of you know, his father, Lou, has been superintendent at Eisenhower for 15 years and long active in the MAAGCS. When asked if he ever worked for his father, Dave said, "Almost. I was a cart boy at Eisenhower." Dave then worked at Lake Arbor CC before entering the I.A.A. at

UM. While still in school he began work at Woodmont as an assistant to Mike Larsen. When he graduated in 1988 he was made assistant in charge of the south course.



Dave says his father's advice has been invaluable, and that he has called on many other superintendents as well, all of whom have been extremely helpful.

Major projects on Rolling Road's course have been kept to a minimum recently. A couple of years ago the clubhouse burned, so this spring they moved into their new \$4-5 million facility. If that weren't enough, they had to rebuild their swimming pool. "There went the rest of my capital for a while," said Dave. They have, however, just finished enlarging #8 tee.

Dave has had one surprise, however: a leak in an underground gas tank. They've had to drill wells and test the water. "They don't quite train you for that. I called on everyone for advice." The crew has been just great, says Dave. "I couldn't have gotten anywhere this year without

my assistant Jeff Bodick and mechanic Ron Stromberg."

Rolling Road fairways and tees are ryegrass; fairways are mowed at 5/8" and tees at 1/2". Greens are mostly poa cut at 5/32". "I'm trying to get bent into them, but it's a slow process—we're not going to kill them off and start over."

Dave's favorite pastime is hunting. He hunts deer with a bow, and when season begins, with guns. He also hunts Canada and snow geese. For the latter, he belongs to a hunt club on the Eastern Shore. He's never gotten a deer with a bow, but last year he killed one with a muzzle loader. When goose season opens, he has a hard time deciding whether to bow hunt or goose hunt.

With the hours he works and his concentration on hunting, it's no wonder Dave's golf score hovers around 100 or that he's single.

Do come out to enjoy this historic course and a delicious dinner in great new clubhouse. **Dinner:** Cash bar at 6:00; hors d'oeuvres at 6:30; dinner at 7:00. **Dress:** formal. Reservations a must by Fri. Dec. 4:301-490-6202. **Meeting:** Annual election. **Directions:** From D.C.: Take 95N to 695W (exit 49 B, a left exit). Go 1 mile to Wilkens Ave.W (exit 12 C). **Go 1 mile, right on Hilltop Rd. At top of hill, left into club. From Baltimore: Exit 12 C (Wilkins Ave.) from 695. Follow above directions from **.

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MAAGCS Newsletter

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sions welcome. Send information
to MAAGCS, 12704 Rigdale
Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

Slate of Officers for 1993

Past President, Nick Vance and
his nominating committee have
established the following slate
for our upcoming election,
December 9 at Rolling RoadCC:

<i>President</i>	Steve Potter
<i>Vice President</i>	Lou Rudinski
<i>Treasurer</i>	D. Scott Wagner
<i>Secretary</i>	Mitch Williams Rhys Arthur
<i>For Director</i>	Bernie Bevan
(1) 3-year term	
<i>For Director</i>	Steve Cohoon
(1) 3-year term	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Board of Directors did such
an outstanding job this year I was
compelled to thank them in my
message last month. This has left
me with a chance to thank the
membership at large for their
support, and as you all know me
this is my chance to leave you
with some ideas for the future.

- First of all, the association is in
good hands with the fine men
coming up as officers and direc-
tors. In a way I wish more of them
were certified, but I also under-
stand certification is an individual
desire. If you are elected you're
expected to work, certified or not.

- The time is coming when we
need to hire a part-time employee
to ease the work load on the
Board, and probably give them a
place to work. My vision of this
would be a semi-retired person,
perhaps a past president, who
could help with our mailings and
computer work. We can rent a
small office at our present location
for this "executive secretary" and
staff it on other days with board
members, perhaps every man one
day a month. We could answer
our own phone for questions and
especially reservations.

- Somehow, someday, we need
meetings of superintendents only,
no commercial members unless
they have been superintendents. I
propose a golf retreat, funded in
part by 50/50 money where we
play golf, sit down, close the door,
eat dinner, drink lemonade, and
talk business. Perhaps our Caves
Valley meeting next year will be
prologue to what I envision.

- We need some revision of
Class F membership. Some of our
commercial members are invalua-
ble, they are there for us every
time we ask, and when they
attend a meeting at your club they
can play the game and know club
etiquette. Some commercial
members, on the other hand,

joined the association for their
own benefit and not for the benefit
of the association as the bylaws
state.

- On average, only 20% of our
members attend meetings, this
must improve. I'm told the
association has cliques, and new
members aren't comfortable. Lord
knows I talk too much, come and
talk to me. (Because after this
article, no one will.)

This is a great business shot
full of good men. I've enjoyed my
time as your president. Thank you
for the opportunity.

Ken Ingram, President

GOLF NOTES

Our annual four-man scramble
championship at Towson Golf &
CC saw a total of 14 teams play on a
well-managed golf course. Thanks
to our host Mark Waltz and his fine
staff for providing these terrific
conditions and the good weather.
1st place - 64 - Gordy Caldwell,
Mike Evans, Paul Masimore and
David Fairbanks

2nd place - 66 - Nick Vance, George
Renault, Steve Cohoon, Bill Roberts
3rd place - 67 - Scott Wagner,
Randy Dayton, Jim Halley, Lee
Dieter

Closest to pin (#6) - Jim Halley

Closest to pin (#16) - Mike Evans

This being our last official event
of the 1992 golf season, I would like
to thank all of our host superinten-
dents who had a MAAGCS meet-
ing. We certainly played a lot of
great courses this year and all were
in outstanding condition for our
tournaments. Great job, Guys!

I would also like to thank the
rest of the golf committee for their
support and assistance. They are:
Jim McHenry, Ben Stagg, and Tim
Sage. Also, I would like to thank my
fellow board members for their
assistance and support. Let's all
hope for good weather and lots of
birdies for 1993.

Winter Storage of Chemicals

by Doug Carlson, Turf and Ornamental Specialist for
DowElanco Specialty Products

Now that cold weather is just around the corner, if not here already, some thought must be given to our investment in plant protection chemicals to ensure their viability for next season. Ideally, we would have planned our purchases to exactly meet our needs for the season and we wouldn't have to worry about over-winter storage. Things rarely work out that well so let's look at what we can do to safeguard our materials.

Most chemicals have an expected shelf life of several seasons if properly handled and stored. Again, good planning and cooperative weather go a long way toward ensuring that what we have is fresh and viable. The biggest culprits to diminishing the shelf life are temperature and moisture followed by sunlight. Most chemical labels suggest storing the product a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight. With a little common sense, we can accomplish this mission without a lot of hassle. Grouping the chemicals by formulation, we can set some guidelines for proper storage.

Granules: Bags of pre-emergence, fertilizers, insecticides and others must be kept *dry*. Any opened bags remaining would probably be best used up on an appropriate site before winter. Open bags can allow air in and cause active ingredients to volatilize and escape. Freezing temperatures will not affect these materials but extremely high temperatures could. Try to cover the bags with a plastic sheet, even if stored in a building to further protect them from possible moisture or things that might be set on them over the winter. Always store them up off the floor, at least on a pallet, as they can draw moisture from cold damp surfaces.

Wettable powders, dry flowables, dispersible granules: These formulations are also not affected by cold temperatures but we should protect them from extremely high temperatures, moisture and direct sunlight. Some packaging could be damaged by water, certainly the cardboard cases they come in. You will want to be able to read the label when you go to use it next spring, so look for a clean, dry area out of direct sunlight. Try to keep this packaging up off the floor also.

Liquids: These products, whether they are petroleum or water based, need to be protected from freezing conditions. These formulations have active ingredients suspended or dissolved in a carrier. Under low temperature conditions, the active ingredients can "salt out" or precipitate and it may be quite difficult to get it back into suspension or solution. Worse yet, you may not realize that it precipitated and pour only carrier or highly concen-

trated active into your spray tank next spring. Freezing of water-based formulations could rupture the container and create an unexpected spill when it thaws.

Any properly constructed and approved chemical storage structure will provide protection for the granules and dry formulations listed above. Only a heated storage facility will provide adequate protection for the liquids. If you don't have on-site storage to provide proper conditions, try to find someone who does and will help you out by storing those materials for you.

Always try to plan your purchases so that you minimize the amount of material you might have to carry over from one season to the next. When you do need to carry something over, remember the essential rules of keeping it cool, dry and out of the sunlight. It's also a good idea to check the lids on any containers to make sure they are tight. Finally, never store pesticides with food, feed, drugs or clothing.



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RHYS'S PIECES

○ Gary Harshman was awarded a \$1,000 GCSAA scholarship for his submitted article *Environmental Challenges of the Golf Course Manager in the 90s*. He was one of three recipients from numerous applicants throughout the country. Gary will be graduating from the Institute of Applied Agriculture in December.

○ Our Education Chairman, "Doctor Dean" Graves, reports that the GCSAA Negotiating seminar held November 6 was attended by 30 eager learners. Next year the Association plans to host a two-day seminar, *Environmental Consideration in Golf Course Management*, during the first week in December.

○ Mark your calendars! The GCSAA will be hosting a one-day seminar for Spray Technicians at

Caves Valley on 2 March 1993. Registration for the event is limited, and will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have questions about registration, call the GCSAA at 913-832-4444, or refer to your mailing sent earlier this fall.

○ Andrew Sheehan of Kenwood Golf & CC wed Ann Vanlandingham on October 3 at a very intimate ceremony in Chevy Chase. Congratulations Ann and Andy.

○ Bruce Steinmiller of Cambridge Country Club, and his wife Linda are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Samantha Marie on October 19 at 3:24 p.m. Linda and Samantha are reported doing fine.

○ Along those same lines, David Boniface, the Assistant at Maryland G&CC and his wife Carrole, have a new baby boy, John David, born November 4. Congratulations to all!

○ Chris Ayers is to be congratulated on his new position as Superintendent of Lakewood CC. Chris was the Assistant at Baltimore CC. Chris' new office phone number is 301-762-0570.

○ John Haley has a new job. After doing a fine job at Westwinds, John finds himself commuting from his home in Rockville to Chartwell CC. John's Assistant at Chartwell is Bill Sapp, a new member of the MAAGCS. For those who don't have it, John and Bill's phone is 410-987-1982.

○ This will be the last issue of *Turfgrass Matters* for 1992. The next issue will be March 1993. Both Betty Ford and I have enjoyed working on the newsletter this year, and we hope that you are pleased in the improvements that have been made.

○ Oh, and of course, Lee Dieter is still at Washington Golf!



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1993 MAAGCS Meeting Sites

We have a big selection of sites set for the 1993 MAAGCS meetings. We tried to incorporate as much of the geographic area as possible, as well as to get some clubs to host meetings that have not done so in the past.

The 1993 Superintendent-Pro Tournament will be at Westwood Country Club where we will be hosted by Walter Montross and

his new Bentgrass Fairways. The Annual Tournament will be in October at Caves Valley CC, hosted by Bruce Cadenelli. Due to extreme space limitations, the club can accommodate only 60 people. Because of this, and the fact that it is the Annual Tournament, we must limit participation to Class A & B members for golf and dinner. We regret the inconvenience this

imposes on other members, but we felt it very important and an excellent opportunity to have one of the newest clubs in the Mid-Atlantic area participate in our Association.

The only other variance from our regular schedule will be the annual picnic which will be on Wednesday, August 11, 1993. This is a great and exciting schedule.

March 9	Fountainhead Country Club	Ken Keller
April 13	River Run Country Club	Fred Heinlen
May 11	Westwood Country Club (<i>Superintendent/Pro</i>)	Walter Montross
June 8	International Country Club	Steve Nash
July 13	Washington Golf & CC	Lee Dieter
August 11	Bretton Woods CC (<i>Annual Picnic</i>)	Larry Ott
September 14	Newark Country Club	Jim Kelly
October 12	Caves Valley Country Club (<i>Annual Tourney/Class A&B only</i>)	Bruce Cadenelli
November 9	Swan Creek Country Club	Ron Weaver
December 14	To Be Announced (<i>Annual Meeting</i>)	

On October 29 the Board of Directors invited all Past Presidents of the MAAGCS to a Past Presidents Dinner where they were honored for their past leadership contributions to the MAAGCS. The day included a luncheon, golf and dinner.



MAAGCS Past Presidents: first row l. to r., George Renault, Benn Stagg, Lee Dieter, Angelo Cammarota, Dave Fairbank; 2nd row l. to r., Walter Montross, Michael McKenzie, Robert Milligan, Kenny Braun, Nick Vance, Gerald Gerard, George Thompson, Sam Kessell.

Northeastern Weed Science Society

There will be a workshop held for the Northeastern Weed Science Society on Thursday January 7, 1993 at the Stouffer Harborplace Hotel. This is the day after the Maryland Turfgrass Council's Turfgrass '93 ends. Admission for Superintendents is complimentary, and the host of speakers, familiar to us all, will address the issue of bentgrass tolerance to herbicides and turf growth regulators. Some of the guest speakers included are Dr. P.H. Dernoeden of the University of Maryland, Dr. T.L. Watschke of the Pennsylvania State University, and S.J. Zontek, Regional Director of the USGA Greens Section. It promises to be an informative day, and we hope that you all can attend.

The Safety of Herbicides and PGRs on Turfgrass

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss and exchange ideas on the current knowledge regarding safety of herbicides and plant growth regulators on turfgrasses. Review the methodology used to evaluate turfgrass safety, and the practical significance of this information to turf managers. Identify and discuss key safety issues of importance to turf managers.

Program

Thursday Morning ----- January 7, 1993

(Meeting Room to be Assigned)

Workshop: The Safety of Herbicides and Plant Growth Regulators on Turfgrass

Moderator: Tim Dutt, Monsanto Company, Bangor, Pennsylvania

8:30 - 11:00

"Turfgrass Root Health Research: An Historical Overview"

T.E. Vrabel, Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

"Tolerance of Cool-Season Turfgrass Species to Herbicides"

P. C. Bhowmik, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

"Creeping Bentgrass Tolerance to Herbicides in Maryland"

P. H. Dernoeden, University of Maryland, College Park

"Safety of Herbicides on Overseeded and Newly Seeded Turfgrass"

J. C. Neal, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

"Turfgrasses and Plant Growth Regulator Safety"

T. L. Watschke, Pennsylvania State University, University Park

"USGA Perspective on Turfgrass Safety Issues"

S. J. Zontek, Director of Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section, West Chester, Pennsylvania

Discussion

Thanks to Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company for sponsoring this notice

Why Not Just Cut Down All the Trees?

by Keith Pitchford, Arborist/Representative, Branches Etc., Inc.

Many times during tours with superintendents I am reminded that a golf course is grass, not trees. After all, I'm told, it's not an arboretum. You certainly couldn't convince me of that when I was a teenager playing golf in New England. For me, golf was trees and rolling green hills.

Without doubt, my profession as forester and arborist is due in large part to those early days on the golf course. So for me, a golf course is an arboretum. Every time I tour a course I am surprised that more attention isn't given to the trees. After all, trees play a major role in determining the difficulty of a golf course, not to mention their aesthetic value. Therefore, it's high time that superintendents learn a bit about tree care. Here's a little primer to get you started.

First, each tree is different. Envision each tree being as different as human beings. Trees come in many species, and within those species are individuals whose differences are based on environmental factors. How did they get there?

Have they always lived here, or were they relocated to this spot? Have their immediate surroundings recently changed? Are they in the best location to keep them healthy? All of these questions determine what to expect from your golf course trees. The answers dictate how to care for them. Trees are almost as diverse as humans, so hire a well-qualified arborist who understands these differences.

Second, trees comprise part of your golf course "ecosystem." As superintendents you manage your property to maintain a stable environment. Because environmental systems are "fixed" systems, each operation you undertake on the course will impact another. For example, you work hard to keep the turf in perfect shape. However, what you do to ensure this carpet of grass may affect the health of your trees.

Several examples come to mind. Last winter I thinned a large stand of trees separating two putting greens. The superintendent needed to increase the drying capability of the greens. By all accounts the job went quite well. My only concern was the effect this drastic thinning will have on the remaining trees. Will some trees experience sun scald and die? Will some fall over due to increased

wind flow? What kind of undergrowth will occur now that more sun is reaching the forest floor? Is this the kind of undergrowth that will require increased labor to control? Have we endangered the understory ornamental plants like dogwoods and azaleas, and exposed them to insect damage? I asked myself whether we solved one problem and created others.

Second, is the impact of fertilizers on trees along fairways. I envision the large amounts of turf nitrogen-rich fertilizers applied yearly. Trees love nitrogen; like dogs with too much food, they will continue feeding as long as food is there. Not only do they get the fertilizers applied to the turf, but in the fall, they receive additional nitrogen from decaying leaves.

The problem is, too much is a bad thing. Excess nitrogen in a tree's system can have several effects. One effect is the attraction of sucking insects such as scales and aphids which are drawn to these trees because of the excessive "juices" flowing through them. This is especially true of eastern white pines, oaks and elms. These sucking insects ultimately weaken the tree and leave them vulnerable to highly damaging "secondary" insects such as wood bores, pine beetles and elm bark

See *Trees* on page 8

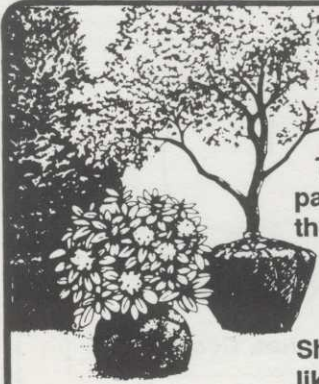
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John Deere Tourney Results

On October 8, one of the John Deere Regional Team Championship Tournaments was held at Wakefield Valley GC in Westminster.

First Place was determined by a chip-off. All four team members chipped.

1st Place - Glade Valley Golf Club with 31'0"; Superintendent Chad Lamantia

2nd Place - Eisenhower Golf Club with 33'2"; Superintendent Lou Rudinski

3rd Place - Piney Branch Golf Club with 42'2"; Superintendent Gene Dyke.

Glade Valley qualifies for John Deere's National Championship in Palm Springs, Calif., Nov. 18-22.

John Deere will donate 10% of the entry fees to the MAAGCS and \$10 per team to the GCSAA Scholarship Research Fund.

Trees, continued from page 7

beetles. The resulting dead trees can be very expensive to remove.

A second impact of excessive nitrogen can be the imbalance of the tree's biological system. A tree is a highly organized and balanced system. It produces enough starch, or "food," each year to carry out four distinct and equal functions: growing leaves, flower production, adding new wood, and defense against insects and disease. If a tree is "pumped up" with excessive nitrogen the entire growth process is exaggerated. Leaves are larger, as are flowers, and more wood is added than normal. The irony is that in the end there is less energy available to fend off insects and disease. Therefore, in some cases, additional nitrogen can actually lead to a tree's demise. Again, dead trees are expensive to remove.

So you see, a golf course is not just turf. Most of the activities you undertake to manage the turf can impact your trees. But, don't be frustrated and clear cut the course.

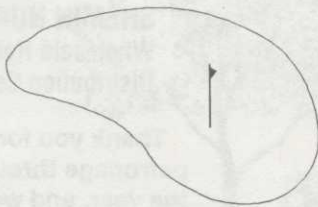
The fact is that trees are an extremely important component of your course. Ask your members for their opinions—I'm sure they would agree. My point is, form a working relationship with an arborist who understands the detailed interactions of your golf course "system." It will save you a lot of money in the long run.

We Remember

The MAAGCS notes the passing of Thomas Lafalce, one of our student members and Assistant Superintendent of Mount Vernon Country Club, on October 27. Tom was studying at the Institute of Applied Agriculture with the dream of becoming a superintendent. Tom was a fine gentleman who will be missed by all. A scholarship fund is being formed in Tom's name. If you wish to contribute, contact Jeff Michel, 703-780-9346.

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and success in 1993.

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