

Turfgrass Matters



June 1992, vol. 45, no. 4

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Tim Kennelly to host June Meeting at the U.S. Naval Academy Golf Club

The United States Naval Academy Golf Club and Superintendent, Tim Kennelly, will host our June 9 golf outing and dinner meeting at Hubbard Hall on the Naval Academy grounds, (see map p. 8).

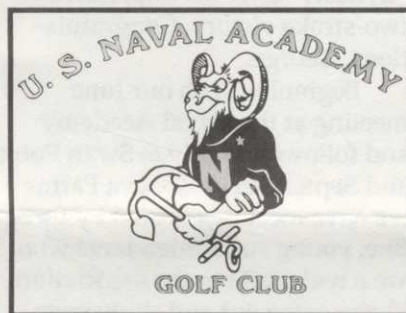
The United States Naval Academy Golf Club has served the Brigade of Midshipmen and the Academy staff since 1916. Originally located on the Academy grounds proper with sand greens, the 18-hole course across the Severn River from the Academy was established in the 1930s.

The USNA Golf Club is operated by the Naval Academy Athletic Association which operates strictly on dues and revenue which is generated at the course. No tax dollars are used to operate the facility. The Club has approximately 550 members consisting of retired and active duty military, and a limited number of civilian members. Also, all 4500 Midshipmen are considered members and pay no fee to play.

Primarily a William Flynn design, the course measures over 6600 yards from the blue tees and 6300 from the white tees. The location of the course also offers a fine vista of the Chesapeake Bay and its twin bridges.

In the five years that Tim has been at the Naval Academy, the course has taken on extensive renovations. With the help of his Assistant Superintendent, John Scheleur, and staff, they have cleared acres of trees and under-

brush from tees, greens, and fairway surrounds. "We had found that the underbrush was not only inhibiting turf growth, but the golf course was definitely not the same course as Mr. Flynn designed. Our goal is to restore



this club to its original design." Upcoming projects—part of a three-year capital projects plan—include the installation of cart paths around all tees and greens, rebuilding the bunkers and returning them to their original design, and rebuilding the bridge located on the first tee with bulkheading to define the pond around the first and seventh holes.

Tim, a native of Temperance, Michigan, graduated from the turf management program at Michigan State University in 1983. Before coming to the Naval Academy, he was Assistant Superintendent at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio and Beverly Country Club in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to his Golf Club duties, Tim serves in an advisory capacity to the Athletic Department on the management of its athletic fields including the recent

conversion to bermudagrass on the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Tim lives in Annapolis with his wife Sandy.

Because the club does not have dining facilities, the evening meeting will be held at Hubbard Hall (see map p. 8). Due to renovations to our pro shop and other facilities, there will not be shower facilities or lunch available. The dress for dinner will be casual.

Agenda: Golf: members and guests may tee off from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call pro shop for tee times: 410-757-2022. Cart fees will be \$9 per person. **Note:** Clubhouse undergoing renovation. Golfers should proceed to temporary trailer on left side between putting green and driving range tee.

Cocktails: 6:00 p.m. Casual dress.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m., Hubbard Hall

Directions: On entering the USNA at gate 8, you will encounter a United States marine. Tell him (very nicely) that you are attending a dinner sponsored by the USNA Athletic Association at Hubbard Hall.

From D.C., Rte. 50 east across new Severn River bridge to exit 27 (450 south, USNA exit), go approximately 1 mile to traffic light (648) and turn left. Go 1/2 mile to next light. Proceed through it 1/4 mile to clubhouse on left.

From Baltimore: Take Rte 97 south to 50 east and proceed as above.

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MAAGCS Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All the thanks
in the world to
Bill Shirk for an
outstanding job
organizing and
hosting our
Superinten-
dent/Pro event
at Queens-



town. What a day, what a golf
course. Thanks, too, go to the
eight sponsors of the event. We
know who you are and I know I
will steer business your way
whenever I can and I know other
members will do the same. Word
is that Renault is already talking
"dynasty" after his impressive
two-stroke victory. Congratula-
tions, George.

Beginning with our June
meeting at the Naval Academy
and followed in July at Swan Point
and September at Geneva Farms
we have meetings hosted by three
fine, young superintendents who
are a real credit to the association.
Please come out and show your
support for their hard work. I look
forward to seeing you all under
the radio towers on June 9.

*Ken Ingram CGCS
President, MAAGCS*

GOLF NOTES

Winners of the 1992 Superinten-
dent-Pro Tournament were as
follows: First and winners of the
Claire Emory Trophy were George
Renault and Jon Stanley. Second
were Jon Machmuller and Hunt
Crosby; 3rd, Scott Wagner and
Luther Showaker; 4th, Mark Waltz
and Mike Welsh; 5th, John
Necomb and Robert McDons;
6th, Jeff Blind and Allen
Wronowski; 7th, Mike Evans and
Larry Ringer; 8th, Jim McHenry
and Bob Rementer; 9th, Steve
Nash and Mike Rayan; 10th, Lentz
Wheeler and Bud Lintelman.
Superintendents closest to the pin
were Bob Collins and Jon
Macmuller, pros closest to the pin
were Allen Wronowski and Ron
Barrows. Superintendent with the
longest drive: Walter Montross;
pro with the longest drive was
Glenn Kelly.

Thanks again to our sponsors
for their support in making this
tournament a wonderful day for
all: G.L. Cornell, TESCO, Lea's
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The June meeting will be held

BEETLE BAILEY MORT WALKER

RHYS'S PIECES

Golf Notes, continued

at the Naval Academy Golf Course, with Tim Kennelly as our host. You must call the pro shop for a starting time, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The tournament will be a net-gross event. All score cards must be turned in to me or to the pro. All score cards must have last names and be attested to by the scorer. Failure to comply with this could cause disqualification! Tournament fee: \$5.

*Bill Shirk, CGCS
Golf Chairman, MAAGCS*

June Speaker

Our speaker for June will be Dr. Tom L. Watschke, Professor of Turfgrass Science, of Penn State University. He will speak on "The Fate of Pesticides."

- Mark & Aimee Waltz are celebrating the birth of their new 7-1/2 lb. daughter, Paige Mathias Waltz, on April 21. I wonder if Kevin Mathias has anything to do with this?
- Congratulations go to **Dave Rudinski** who is the new Superintendent at Rolling Road. Lou is so proud of his son that he promised to buy us all drinks at the next meeting. Right Lou?
- Another announcement is that **Robert "Bobby" Jenkins**, formerly at Carpers's Valley Golf Club is now the superintendent at Cress Creek Golf and Country Club. Congratulations Bobby!
- The Institute of Applied Agriculture captured second place at the Mid-Atlantic Landscape Field Day.

MAAGCS member **Corey Haney**, from Congressional CC, was the high individual scorer out of 200 participants from 10 schools.

○ Everyone knows Bill Emerson, one of our non-resident members who lives in Arizona. Well, you'll be glad to know that Bill's youngest son Scott, recently signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles as a Pitcher. Congratulations Scott and Bill.

○○○

Sign of the times

A pair of environmentally incorrect robins have nested just outside my kitchen window. Woven into their carefully constructed abode is a string of shiny brown cassette tape.

—Betty Ford

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Control Strategies for Black Turfgrass Ataenius

by Kevin Mathias, Lecturer and Advisor, IAA, University of Maryland

The black turfgrass ataenius or Ataenius beetle is considered a serious insect pest of golf course turf. In the Maryland and Northern Virginia area numerous golf courses over the past ten years have experienced damage from the larval or grub stage of this insect.

The Ataenius beetle was first discovered in 1932 to cause turf loss on fairways and greens in Minnesota. Little information about its pest status was mentioned in the literature until the 1970s when numerous reports began to appear from several of the

resembles blighting by such diseases as brown patch and pythium which also may be active during this time period. One quick way to differentiate between the two pest types is to check the root system of the plant. If the plants can be easily pulled up then small third instar grubs (1/3" in length) will be seen.

An understanding of the Ataenius beetle life cycle is important for effective control. The beetle will have two generations per year with the larval instars occurring in the mid-May-June period and in the late July-

preventative control demonstrated that excellent results could be achieved if sites were treated in early May when overwintering adults were depositing their eggs into the turf. Timing of the preventative approach was shown to follow closely with other phenological events such as flowering of the horse chestnut and the Vanhoutte spirea. Insecticides used for this method must stay in the upper thatch layers and therefore only light watering (several minutes) is recommended.

Curative control for this insect

Appearance of Ataenius beetles at local golf courses in 1991

Date	Life Stage	Location
May 26	Larva - 1st gen.	Pine Ridge Golf Course - Fairways
June 11	Larva - 1st gen.	Hobbitts Glen Golf Course - Fairways
June 13	Larva - 1st gen.	Norbeck - Greens
July 20	Adults - 2nd gen.	UMCP Golf Course - Greens, Collars
July 26	Adults & Larva - 2nd gen.	Burning Tree Golf Course - Fairways, Collars
Aug 2	Larva - 2nd gen.	Leisure World - Collars, Fairways
Aug 19	Larva - 2nd gen.	Holly Hills - Collars, Fairways

eastern and mid-western states. My first experience with diagnosing damage from this insect occurred in 1979 where extensive turfgrass loss occurred to annual bluegrass-perennial ryegrass fairways in late June.

The black turfgrass ataenius is in the same family (scarab beetles) as the Japanese beetle, masked chafers, and the May or June beetle. Damage to the turfgrass stand is caused by the root-feeding activity of the grub or larva. The host plants are annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and the bentgrasses. Damage is often noticed first on annual bluegrass in mixed stands. This is believed to be due to differences in rooting depth of annual bluegrass compared to other hosts. Diagnosing Ataenium beetle damage may be somewhat confusing since it

occurs in early to mid-June when a majority of the eggs have hatched and second and third instar grubs are present. Insecticide application must be followed by deep watering (1/2") in order to place the insecticide into the soil where the grubs are feeding. If damage is seen in August from second generation larva, then control actions can be applied to stop further damage.

August time period. The third instar stage of the grub is considered to be the most destructive and will be present in mid-June for the first generation and mid-August for the second generation. Observations made last year at different golf courses for the appearance of the Ataenius beetle are listed in Table 1.

The adult beetle will overwinter in protected areas during the winter and will begin to emerge in early April in our area. Egg laying by these overwintering adults will occur by early May and is timed to the flowering of the horse chestnut and the Vanhoutte spirea.

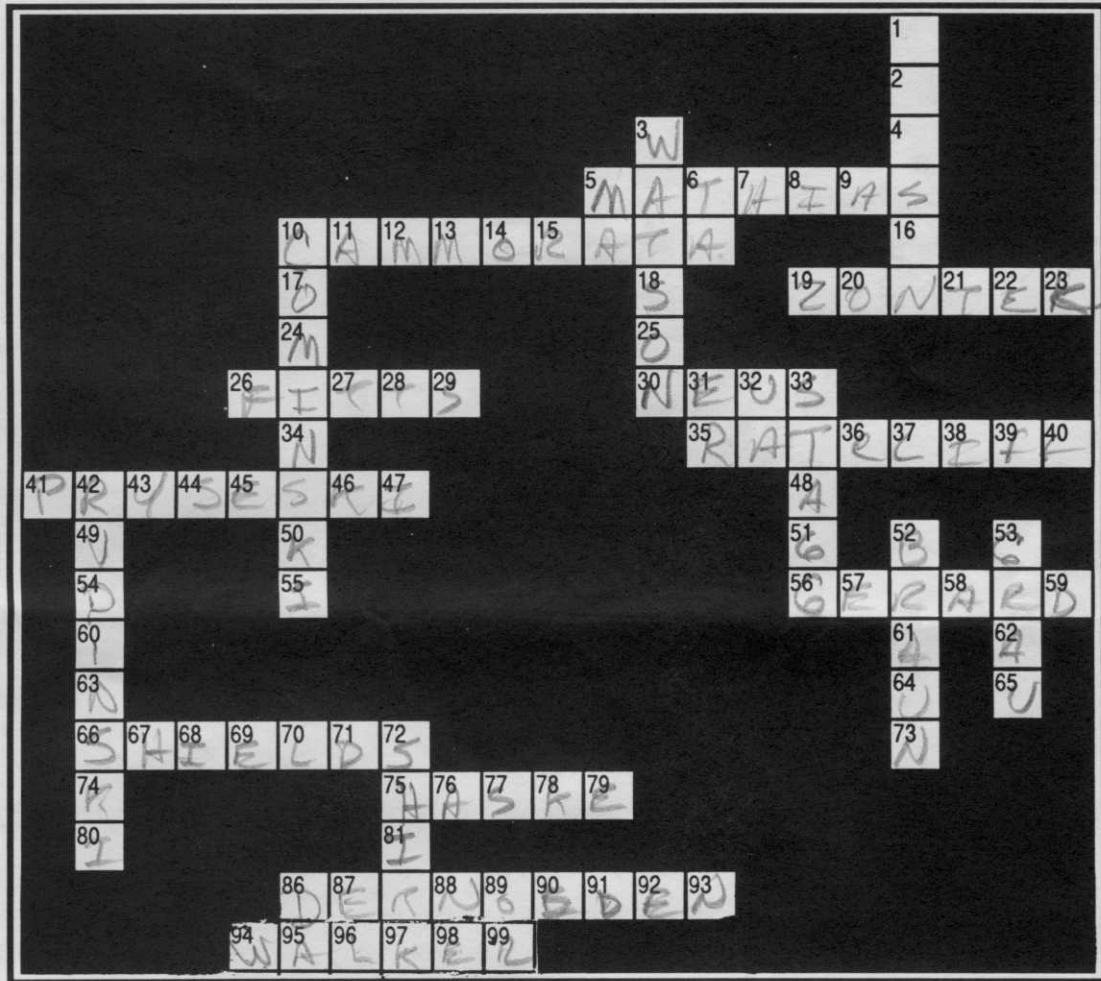
Control strategies for black turfgrass ataenius may be geared to either adult (preventative approach) or for larval control (curative approach). Work by Niemczyk on

occurs in early to mid-June when a majority of the eggs have hatched and second and third instar grubs are present. Insecticide application must be followed by deep watering (1/2") in order to place the insecticide into the soil where the grubs are feeding. If damage is seen in August from second generation larva, then control actions can be applied to stop further damage.

Insecticide choice, Proxol, Turcam, Oftanol, Dursban, Sevin, or Triumph will depend on whether a preventative or curative control strategy will be used. Insecticides that can move through thatch and into the soil quickly will provide acceptable larva control while insecticides remaining in the surface litter will provide good adult control.

How Well Do You Know the MAAGCS?

The following crossword puzzle is comprised of MAAGCS members' last names. Clues to many of the questions may be found by looking in the past three issues of *Turfgrass Matters*. Stumped? The answers are listed on Page 8.



ACROSS

- 5. Lecturer and advisor for IAA students
- 10. Always brings "pop" with him when he visits
- 19. USGA Agronomist who always ends his talks with "Go golf."
- 26. First president of the MAAGCS
- 30. Host of this year's MAAGCS picnic
- 35. Everyone always calls him a "sandbagger"
- 41. New superintendent of Cattail Creek
- 56. Superintendent made general manager
- 66. Owner of Glen Dale CC
- 75. MAAGCS member who hosts Kemper Open
- 86. UM professor who researches summer patch
- 94. Crazy Lesco salesman

DOWN

- 1. Lady MAAGCS member, former MTC president
- 3. Honorary member who once managed Sparrows Point Country Club
- 10. Loves to punch holes in your greens
- 33. Always brings crabs to the picnic
- 42. Father & son, both superintendents
- 52. Former Supt., now representing Isolite
- 53. Honorary member who developed Crown Vetch
- 72. Host of this year's Supt./Pro tournament



Scenes from the 1992 Superintendent-Pro Tournament at Queenstown Harbor



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Turfgrass Fertilization and Water Quality

by Joseph B. Hackman, Ph.D., Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service. Reprinted from The Greenside, newsletter of GCSA New Jersey

Pollution of surface and ground-water are environmental concerns with the use of nitrogen fertilizers on turfgrass. A recent University of Maryland study (Gross et al., 1990, J. Environ. Qual. 19:663-668) determined losses of nutrients and sediments via runoff and leaching from turfgrass. The study compared N fertilizer applied in a liquid and granular form and an unfertilized control. Nitrogen (as urea) was applied at a rate of 4.5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. per year according to appropriate spring and fall feeding schedules. Surface runoff was collected from plots with slopes of five to seven percent from significant rainfall events throughout the year. Groundwater samples taken

monthly at 0.75 m depth were analyzed for nitrate.

Although nutrient losses via runoff were small, total N in runoff was approximately two-fold higher in the liquid and granular treatments when compared to the unfertilized control. There was no difference between liquid and granular treatments with respect to runoff. The concentrations of nitrate in percolate under the granular, liquid and unfertilized control treatments were 1.02, 0.85 and 0.33 ppm. The liquid and granular treatments were significantly higher than the control but not different from each other. These nitrate concentrations are lower than the Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standard of 10 ppm nitrate and are considerably lower than nitrate concentrations previously reported under corn. This study demonstrated that very low concentrations of nitrate were found below the root zone of

fertilized and unfertilized turf and that nitrogen and phosphorus losses in runoff from established turfgrass were low. Sediment and nutrient losses via runoff from established turf are generally low because of the resistance to surface water movement provided by a dense turf stand. The study concludes "that properly managed and judiciously fertilized turf is not a significant source of nutrients or sediment in surface or groundwater."

Answers to Crossword

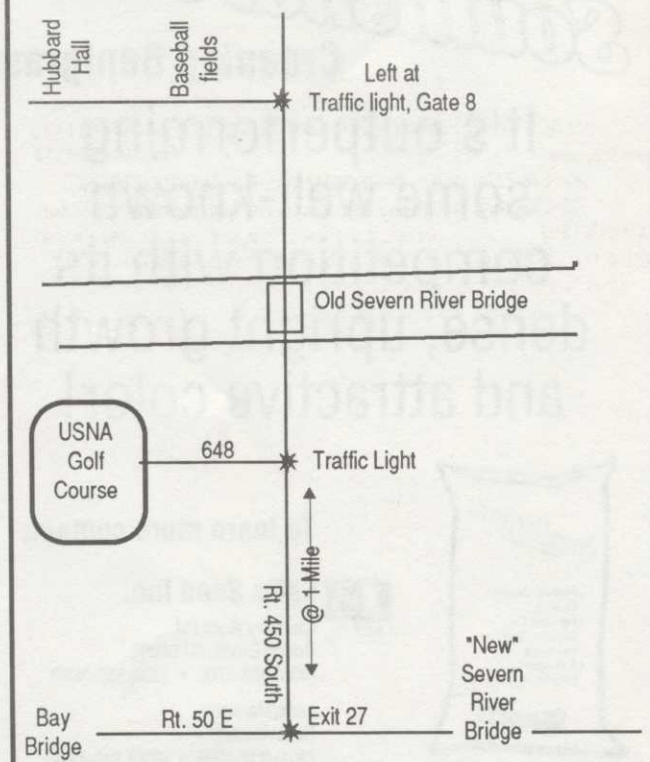
Across

5. Mathias
10. Cammarota
19. Zontek
26. Fitts
30. Neus
35. Ratcliff
41. Pryseski
56. Gerard
66. Shields
75. Haske
86. Dernoeden
94. Walker

Down

1. Jensen
3. Watson
10. Cominski
33. Stagg
42. Rudinski
52. Braun
53. Grau

Map to USNAGC and Hubbard Hall



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