

# Turfgrass Matters



November 1992, vol. 45, no. 9

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## November 10 MAAGCS meeting to be held at Towson G&CC

Mark Waltz will host the November meeting at Towson Golf and Country Club. He looks forward to having MAAGCS members play in the beautiful Delaney Valley, and to welcoming you for dinner in their recently renovated clubhouse.

A private club, Towson G&CC was designed by Jeffrey Cornish. Built in 1970 by Bob Vincent, relatively few changes have been necessary. In 1987, however, under the direction of architect Bob Elder, some renovations were completed: 20 bunkers and additional tees were added. Three years ago they installed an automatic irrigation system. The only other project undertaken has been to convert one fairway, number 16, to bentgrass. Why only one fairway, you may ask. It seems that assistant superintendent, Doug Bader, needed one course to graduate. He chose Special Topics in Agronomy: Bentgrass Conversion. The club's greens committee agreed to convert the fairway as a test to see if the members would like it. The conversion was successful—Doug graduated. "The members think it's beautiful," laughs Mark, "but they have rather high handicaps and can't hit off of it—it's mowed too low."

The layout of Towson is 6,659 from the blues and 6,439 from the whites. The greens are bent/poa, tees are bentgrass, fairways are ryegrass, and the rough is bluegrass. Greens are mowed at 9/64", fairways at 3/4", intermediate cut

is at 1-1/2", and the rough at 2". Mark says that for the first time this year he's using Pro-Grass on the tees.

For Mark and his wife Aimee, golf is a family affair. She has been Towson's club champion or runner-up for the last five years. She also plays in Maryland state tournaments. "We're compatible," says Mark, "she's an 8 handicapper and so am I. But she beats me all the time. She makes it challenging; we play for who's going to clean the house or something."

It shouldn't be surprising that these two met on the golf course. Aimee spotted Mark when he caddied for her brother—now the pro at York (Pa.) CC—when he played in amateur tournaments in Maryland. She asked Mark to play a round with her and eight months later they were married. They honeymooned in Hawaii where they played golf every day. And now, of course, their vacations center around golf—they usually get away for two weeks in the winter to play in Florida or Charleston.

Now that Paige (six months old) is here, Mark and Aimee, a mortgage banker, do some serious schedule juggling. Mark, who goes to work very early, takes the afternoon shift, while Aimee watches Paige in the mornings and on weekends. Mark says it works very well and even allows him time to indulge in his other serious hobby—losing money to Kenny Braun on the golf course.

**Golf:** Shotgun start beginning at 11:00. Tee time not necessary. See details in *Golf Notes*, page 3.

**The meeting:** Cocktails at 6:00, hors d'oeuvres at 6:30, dinner at 7:00. Cost is \$30. Cash bar. Dress is formal: coat and tie. Please make a reservation by calling 301-490-6202.

**Directions: from Baltimore:** 695 to Delaney Valley Rd (Exit 27) north. Stay on Delaney Valley Rd. until you cross Loch Raven Reservoir bridge. Watch for the flashing light that signals a fork in the road. Bear right at the fork. The first left will be Stonehill Road. Go 3/4 of a mile to the clubhouse.

**from D.C./Northern Va.:** I-95 north to 695. Take 695 in the direction of Towson, (a left-lane exit), then, follow above directions.

### GCSAA President to speak at November meeting

Mr. Bill Roberts, President, GCSAA, will be our keynote speaker at the November 10 meeting. He will address the Bylaw changes and the future of the GCSAA. And, I am sure Mr. Roberts would like to answer any questions our members may have. This is a great opportunity for the MAAGCS to show our support for the GCSAA and our President. See you at the meeting.

Dean M. Graves  
Education Chairman

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**MAAGCS Newsletter**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Our October meeting was a tremendous success. Bill Shirk organized a fine Memorial Tournament. I want Ben



Stagg to give my eulogy after hearing him memorialize Ralph McNeal. Many thanks to Preston Licklider and the staff at Winchester CC, you have a first-class facility.

I wanted to wait for our last newsletter in December to thank our Board of Directors for their hard work but I am compelled to do it now. Everyone has done an outstanding job. Our golf tournaments are outstanding, our speakers and seminars are the best in the country, the newsletter greatly improved, and how about Captain Merrick's boat ride? Behind the scene our books are kept, schedules arranged, members serviced, and poor Mitch has spent every meeting hustling tickets and counting money while the rest of us enjoy cocktails. You should be proud of your Board, buy them a drink at the next meeting, and bring Mitch one out in the lobby. The time is coming when we will have to hire someone to ease their workload.

I'm also proud of the members of this association. I hope you all attend the November meeting and show our national president just how fine a chapter we have. See you there.

*Ken Ingram*  
*President, MAAGCS*

**RHYS'S PIECES**

○ As announced at the October meeting in Winchester, our past president, Nick Vance, has established the nominating committee for the December elections of directors and officers for the association. If you are interested in running for the Board, or have questions about running, please contact one of the following members of the nominating committee: Nick Vance (chairman), 301-977-6636; Bill Neus, 301-730-5962; Ben Stagg, 410-822-7467; George Renault, 301-469-7351.

○ The Board of Directors is proud to announce that we will have a Hospitality suite at the national in Anaheim in January. This hospitality Suite is being done as a service to our membership and will be a great opportunity for MAAGCS members to get together and enjoy the conference. More information about the Hospitality suite will be given in the December issue of *Turfgrass Matters*.

○ Our Education Chairman, "Dr. Dean" Graves, has also announced that the MAAGCS and the Maryland State Golf Association will co-host a meeting for Greens Committee Chairs and Golf Course Superintendents at Columbia Country Club on March 6, 1993. Topics for the meeting will include the relationship between the Greens committee Chair and the Superintendent, Bunker construction and maintenance, hiring a golf course architect, greens renovation, and introductory comments from Stanley Zontek. Now is the time to talk with your Greens Committee Chair and mention this all-important meeting. We will provide more information on this meeting in 1993.

**NEW MEMBERS****Scott Paul**

Assistant superintendent,  
Germantown Country Club  
Class D

**Dean Rush**

Superintendent, Patuxent Greens  
Class B

**Jon Hukkala**

Superintendent  
Penderbrook Golf Club  
Class B

*Mike Gilmore*  
*Membership Chairman*



## GOLF NOTES

On October 5 the MAAGCS golf team of Nick Vance, Walter Montross, Scott Wagner, George Renault, Dean Graves, Ron Hawkins, Tim sage, and Bill Shirk made a visit to Farmington GC, in Farmington, Ct. to play in the Met Tournament. The tournament consisted of four net players and four gross players, then taking three of the four best scores for each net and gross and combining them for a total score. The team finished three shots behind the third-place team. However, Scott Wagner did tie for first place in the individual gross division with a very fine round of 77. Unfortunately, Scott lost in a sudden death play-off. Great going, Scott. I think your caddy caused you to miss that putt!

## 1992 MAAGCS Annual Tournament Results

### A Division, Gross

1st, W.H. Glover Trophy  
Scott Wagner, 74  
2nd, Jim McHenry, 80  
3rd, Nick Vance, 80  
4th, Bill Shirk, 85  
5th, Tim Sage, 86

### A Division, Net

1st, Ralph McNeal Trophy  
Ken Ingram, 70  
2nd, Mike Gilmore, 71  
3rd, George Renault, 73  
4th, Bob Jenkins, 74  
5th, Mark Merrick, 77

### B Division, Gross

1st, Ron Hawkins, 82  
2nd, Bob Wren, 90  
3rd, Bill Appel, 90

### B Division, Net

1st, Kirk Intermill, 77  
2nd, Tom Malehorn, 78  
3rd, Jeff Vance, 81

Longest drive - Nick Vance

Closest to pin - Lou Rudinski

Closest to pin - Scott Wagner



Thanks again to Preston Licklider for an outstanding job preparing for our annual championship. The course was in true championship form!

Once again, we would like to thank our sponsors of the Annual Championship: G. L. Cornell, TESCO, Pro-Lawn, Cornell Chemical.

### November 10 Golf Plans

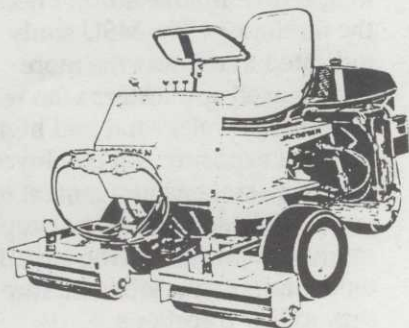
Our tournament at Towson GCC will be a four-man scramble. Sign-up will be from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30. The format will be A-B-C-D players. The golf committee will make all the pairings that day.

*Bill Shirk, Golf Chairman*

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# Pesticides *can* be used safely

## Training Makes the Difference

In the 1990s we have heard a lot about pesticide exposure and how to minimize the risk to employees and others who may come in contact pesticides. A recent study at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, looked at the entire spectrum of exposure to pesticides and reported some very interesting results. In a nutshell, everything we have always believed as true was verified, but let's look a little closer at some of the information we now have.

The study looked at 2, 4-D exposure by professional applicators. The total exposure was measured, that is, how much 2, 4-D these people handled and then how much 2, 4-D was excreted from their bodies over a period of

time. Since 2, 4-D and other phenoxy herbicides are such a hot topic with so many people today, this presents some good information with which you should become familiar.

The results found no correlation between how much 2, 4-D was handled and how much was excreted. In fact, the person who was the loader/mixer at the firm actually had a lower excrement level than some of the applicators. The applicators themselves had all different levels of excrements when they were exposed to virtually the same amount of 2, 4-D.

So what makes the difference? Very simply, it came down to the care taken by the person handling the pesticide. The mixer/loader understood, apparently, that he

was handling a more concentrated material and therefore was more cautious. The applicators had varying levels of exposure. Rolling up hoses with bare hands, not using boots or long pants, all increased the amount of 2, 4-D excreted by the applicator. This information backs up a study done at Michigan State University several years ago that showed proper uniforms decrease overall exposure

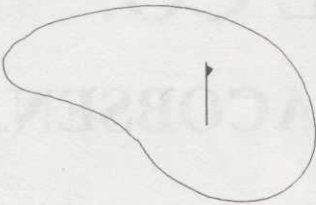
dramatically.

Another aspect of this study looked at exposure to persons who walked on the sprayed turf. or who were bystanders to the application. Certainly, these are concerns for everyone who applies pesticides on golf courses. The bystanders had no measurable exposure for 96 hours after the application; and of the persons who walked on the turf, the only ones who had a measurable response were those in bare feet and shorts who sat on the turf within an hour of the application. Even so, the excrement was below any World Health Association acceptable daily intake level. The good news here is that if people are wearing shoes (and most of our players do!) then their potential exposure is extremely low, if not nil.

The bottom line from this study is that proper training does make a difference. Any time spent teaching our applicators and other employees about the proper use of pesticides and waiting until the applications dry before coming in contact with the turfgrass, will pay big dividends in employee health and safety. One word of warning: don't assume that your long-term employees don't need the reminders! The MSU study indicated that it was the more experienced applicators who were a bit more careless and had higher levels of exposure. All employees need constant encouragement to work safely and to use the proper safety equipment. As the superintendent, it is your job to be sure they follow directions.

*This article is reprinted from A Patch of Green, newsletter of the Michigan and Border Cities GCSA.*

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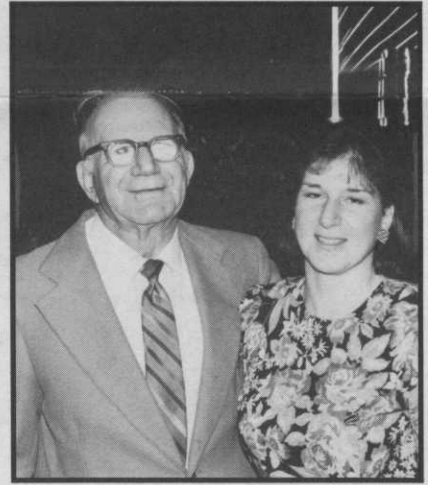
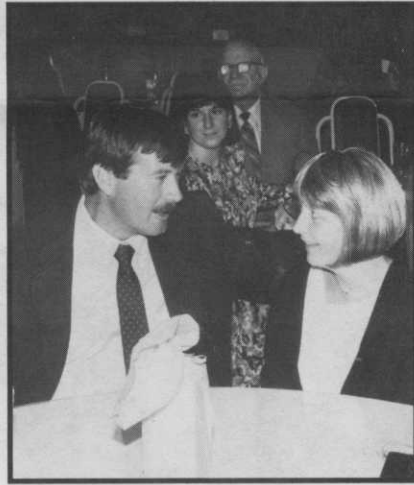
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## The Roving Camera Captures Ladies Night

Spirits ran high on the Spirit of Baltimore October 10, thanks to "Captain" Mark Merrick whose hard work resulted in such a successful Ladies Night. Here's a glimpse of the gala event.



## TREES for ALL SEASONS

How to get the biggest bang for the buck by selecting trees and shrubs with multiple season interest

by John Raver, Edrich Farms Nursery

For the primary caretaker of a golf course, fall is the perfect time to evaluate landscape needs. The unfolding palette of colors nature provides plus cooler brisker temperatures draw out even the most reluctant golfer. Proper planning and planting could be the little extra that draws consistent crowds — and holds them throughout the year — particularly in the fall — and, if it's mild, into winter.

To get the most for your landscaping dollar, try asking yourself one question concerning the aesthetic value trees or shrubs: How many seasons of interest does it have?

Two of the most popular trees are still champions for multiple seasonal interest, the Florida dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*).

Dogwoods start the growing season by flowering — either white or pink blossoms. In summer they sport dark green foliage arrayed in a unique full layered look, unless you have chosen a variegated variety such as Cherokee Daybreak or Cherokee Sunset whose foliage is white/green or yellow/green. In the fall, depending on the cultivar, the leaves change from russet or maroon to a bold red while the berries redden. Then, as the leaves fall, the berries are exposed in contrast to early frosts, enticing many feathered friends to alight and feast. Flowering pears (*Pyrus calleryana*), with many improved varieties from Red Spire to Chanticleer, also follow this scenario. Both presently on the market.

In recent years, many indigenous red maples have been

hybridized to provide varieties from which you can literally pick the fall coloration—bright yellow, tanga orange, or scarlet (October Glory, Red Sunset, Firedance, etc.). Of course maples are renowned as shade trees and provide wonderful habitat and cover enough to satisfy any ornithological enthusiast. Furthermore, the family of maples contains cultivars that grow to only 25 to 30 feet with a spread equal to or less than the height. They have fascinating leaf shapes. For example, the amur maple, which colors up to a brilliant yellow/red, to the paper-bark maple which, when the bronze to russet leaves fall, fully exposes its reddish-brown exfoliating bark! Imagine that against a backdrop of pure white snow from a late winter snowfall.

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A new arrival on the ornamental shade tree list is the Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*). This versatile tree may have only two seasons of real interest — full dense dark green summer foliage and a brilliant yellow fall show — but it's an outstanding performer as to ease of care and adaptability. The Macho Amur cork tree is relatively disease- and pest-free, and adapts well to harsh, droughty pollution-packed, poor soil conditions.

It is well worth researching all aspects of plantings to ensure the proper choice for any given site.

The shrub zone is equally important in rounding out the fall color story. As an understory planting, our very own American shadblow service-berry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) is a star performer. In spring this versatile shrub/tree provides a spectacular show of white blossoms as does another low-growing shrub/

tree—the Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus Virginicanus*). Both provide berries that darken through the summer and by fall, when they turn from yellow to burnt orange, that—at least in the case of the Fringe Tree—persist into winter.

For a fiery red display, go for a hedge of *Euonymus alata* compacta. This shrub does well by itself or in groups, and the winged bark and orange berries, carry it admirably into the colder months.

Two other ornamentals are worth mentioning for their contribution to the autumn scenery. First, are grasses, with their fountainlike reeds of gently wind-blown greenery topped by plumes of various colored seed heads that persist well into winter. Changing from whites and light purples to tan and wheat colors, they also offer multiple seasons of beauty.

Second, don't forget ever-greens such as hollies and spruces. True, they don't change color, but

their form and year-long foliage provide a perfect balance or anchoring beauty to fairways. Further, their dense growth and fruits—berries/cones—besides supplying winter interest, are helpful to a wide variety of wildlife.

The idea of addressing a little white sphere with the awesome driving force of a two-iron would have much less impact if the decor were drab and dull. The backdrop could be your very own carefully planned, multifaceted landscape that changes mood along with the temperature and length of daylight. I can think of no other urban sport that combines athletic skill with the ability to refresh the spirit in a well-constructed naturalized environment. It can be the pause that refreshes best as one mentally goes over the successful feeling of watching the dimpled orb float past spectacular reds, yellows and oranges of carefully planted trees.



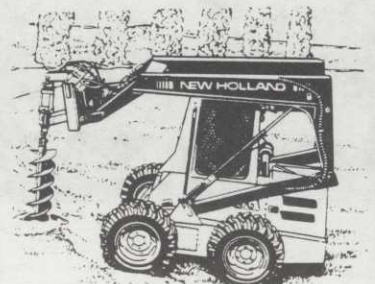
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## Camden Yards' Hidden Assets

Those lucky enough to have Orioles tickets this summer probably weren't aware that teams played on a \$1 million turf system that took longer to prepare than Camden Yards did to build, according to the *Washington Post*.

The turf—a mixture of three bluegrass varieties—was seeded on six acres at Oakwood Sod Farm in Salisbury, Md. three months before construction began at the \$106 million facility. Oakwood's Alan Wilber said the cultivars—Touchdown and Eclipse—were chosen because of their durability, and Midnight "because it would show well on TV."

The best grass was harvested in 16-by-45-inch strips last November and hauled to the ballpark. Grounds crews laid 2-3/4 acres of sod on a base made

from 9,000 tons of sand and 600 bales of peat moss rest on a heavy-duty plastic liner and more than 2-1/2 miles of drainage pipe.


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The system is capable of draining up to two inches of rainfall per hour. Play can be resumed within 30 minutes after the rain stops.

### We're Proud to Note

The MAAGCS, along with several other chapters, followed the GCSAA's lead in contributing to a hurricane relief effort for golf course employees in south Florida. One victim of the storm has relocated in our area. Russell Felter, the mechanic at Doral, is looking for a job in our area and can be reached at 301-353-0801.



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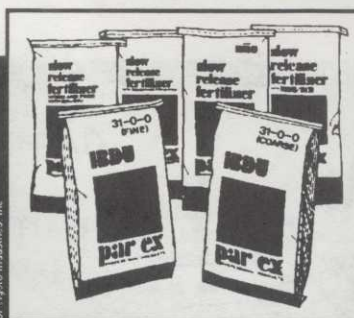
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