

# Turfgrass Matters



April 1994, vol. 46, no. 2

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## Jim Meier to host April Meeting at Belle Haven CC in Alexandria, Virginia

April's meeting will be at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria with Jim Meier hosting.



Mid-Atlantic golfers play in some of the country's most historic locales. Belle Haven is an excellent example: in the 1600s an Indian village was located here; in the 1700s and 1800s it was the site of a large plantation. In fact, says Jim, "One thousand slaves are buried in the area of holes 4,5, and 6."

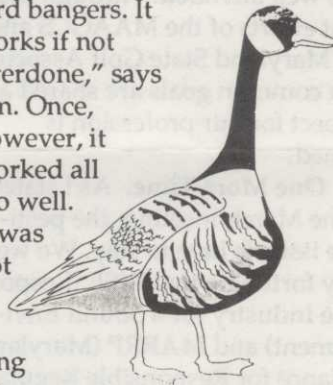
From 1861 to 1865 Ft. Willard, a union encampment, stood on a nearby hill. The remains can still be seen. Here, soldiers took potshots at tombstones. Notes Jim, "Occasionally, construction will bring up civil war bullets." So, you may want to look carefully before replacing your divots.

The first nine holes of this private, 635-member club, opened in September, 1924. Of the 19 greens, three are original. All others have been reconstructed since 1950; none is USGA mix. Recent construction includes five tees, a new driving range and athletic facility.

Jim's most pressing problem in the last couple of years has been ground that is too wet. To attack this problem, they have been busy

adding more drainage.

Another of his predicaments—being located very near a bird sanctuary—is keeping geese off the course. "My primary control is firing bird bangers. It works if not overdone," says Jim. Once, however, it worked all too well. It was not



long after George Bush's son moved in across the street. Jim fired his firecracker gun one morning in 1990, having forgotten to notify the Fairfax Police. Shortly, thereafter, he looked up to see the Secret Service and the county police coming from all directions. It was soon settled with Jim adding the Secret Service's phone number to his notification list.

Jim has been superintendent of Belle Haven for more than 15 years. Posts before that were at Garden City GC for Men (one year), Huntington G&CC (one year), and Congressional CC (four years). He is a graduate of the University of Georgia (BSA), the

University of Agriculture and Technological College at Farm, NY (AAS) and short courses at VPI. He also served in the Navy.

**Dinner:** Cocktails at 6:30; dinner at 7:30; \$30; formal. **Reservations a must!**

**Directions:** *From Baltimore:* After crossing the Wilson Bridge take first exit Fort Belvoir South (Rt. 1); stay in right lane—Rt 1 goes left, Hunt right. Take Fort Hunt. Go through three lights. Club is on left. *From Richmond/495:* Take 495/95E toward Baltimore. Exit onto Rt 1 south and follow then follow directions above.

### Inside this Issue

President's Message	2
Golf Notes	3
Education Notes	3
Cphoon's Corner	3
What's with Growth Regulators?	4
Proposed Changes in MAAGCS By-laws	5
The Legislative Process	6
Legislative Representation	7
How to Check on a Bill	8

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The March meeting was a huge success. In spite of inclement weather, 125 members and guests enjoyed the hospitality granted us by Bruce Zickafoose and the Norbeck staff.



Thank-yous are also in order for everyone in honoring the reservation requirements. We were exact with the count!

The second annual green chairman/superintendent seminar at Greenspring Valley Hunt Club was well attended. Through the joint efforts of the MAAGCS and the Maryland State Golf Association common goals are shared and respect for our profession is gained.

**One More Time.** As I stated at the March meeting, the pesticide issue is here to stay. We were very fortunate that RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) and MARRP (Maryland Alliance for Responsible Regulation of Pesticides, Inc.) were there

to guide us through this year's legislative sessions. Opponents to pesticide use on golf courses have studied our weaknesses and are already preparing for next year's proposed pesticide legislation. Thank-yous are also in order to members who wrote or called, especially to those who volunteered to visit with state legislators in Annapolis. The only way to get our message across is to unite and communicate directly with those who vote on proposed legislation. **Maximum** member input is essential if we are going to include professional expertise into future pesticide regulations. **Don't let misguided legislation pass before you respond!** Your Board of Directors cannot do it alone!

In our effort to provide immediate and complete information to members of impending issues the BOD reminds you to send us your fax numbers.

Kevin Mathias' educational program at Norbeck unveiled to those in attendance the ease of communicating a wealth of information through a computer network. Ag On Line is an invaluable new tool providing an enormous resource on a host of shared expertise plus a forum for rapid response to golf course related issues. Call Kevin for more details.

The next meeting (May) will be at the Old South Club. Our hosts will be Keith Hershberger and Bob Fretwell. For those who haven't played this course, it promises to challenge you! Get your entries in early as the field will be limited.

*Lou Rudinski, CGCS  
President*



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## EDUCATION NOTES

### April Speaker

Mr. Allen James, Executive Director of RISE, will provide the educational portion of the April meeting. RISE—Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment—and Mr. James have been busy with the current legislative session in Annapolis. Efforts have been focused on passage of pesticide preemption regulation for Maryland and other pesticide-related bills.

The topic for our meeting will be related to getting involved at the *grassroots* level of legislative workings in our communities and states. Our association needs to be better organized and more involved in the legislative districts of the state. This promises to be a very informative and interesting evening.

### Scholarship Information

*GCSAA 1994 Legacy Awards.* The GCSAA's Legacy Award Program offers educational aid to the children and grand-children of members through the auspices of the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund, Inc. Legacy Awards are \$1,500 per academic year. The deadline for applications is April 15, 1994. Applicants are evaluated based on academic excellence, outside activities and an essay about their parents' or grandparents' involvement with the profession. For more information contact Sean Remington, 301-656-6323.

### Trims Donations

Effective February 5, 1994, TRIMS Software International has expanded its Scholarship & Research Donation program to include GCSAA Affiliate Chapters. TRIMS began the S&R Donation program

with GCSAA in December 1992. Through this program TRIMS makes a \$100 donation in the name of a new customer, to one of the S&R Funds. Because of customer interest this program can now include donations to regional or state-affiliated chapters of GCSAA. Please contact TRIMS for further details.

*Sean Remington  
Education, Chairman*

## GOLF NOTES

Unfortunately the March golf tournament had to be cancelled due to yet another winter storm. However, Bruce Zickafoose and the management team at Norbeck has extended an invitation to come back and play another time. Thanks, Bruce. I, for one, plan on taking you up on that offer.

The April meeting will be held at Belle Haven Country Club with Jim Meier, CGCS as our host. Our format for the day will be a points tournament. Cost for the tournament will be \$5; cart fees will be \$10 per person. Tee times are available at any time by calling the pro shop: 703-329-2441. *Remember to pick up a rule sheet when you sign in!*

Mark your calendar for the annual Superintendent/Pro tournament to be held on May 20 at Old South Country Club. You should be receiving your registration information soon. The field will be limited so please return your registration early to reserve your place in the tournament.

*James McHenry  
Golf Chairman*



## COHOON'S CORNER

○ As I'm sure you are aware, there has been a great deal of action on pesticide regulation in Annapolis. Currently, many new laws that effect golf course superintendents are being proposed—primarily because of the general hysteria concerning perceived overuse and misuse of pesticides.

It's time that we, as a group and individually, stand up for responsible use of pesticides. For years we have advocated IPM programs to reduce pesticide use, and current figures show that usage is on the decline. Do you adhere to an IPM program? The state currently has a voluntary licensing program; are you a licensed applicator? Do you allow applicators to spray without protective equipment? Do you comply with all reporting requirements and regulations? Have you contacted your local and state representatives concerning proposed regulations? If you haven't, you need to correct any area in which you are deficient for the betterment of the entire profession. By doing so, we model to the general public the image of trained, responsible professionals. This will go a long way in gaining their trust that we are using pesticides properly. I don't expect to please everyone, just the majority.

○ The MAAGCS is forming a government relations committee as a result of the growing need to provide for the membership in this critical area. Volunteers are needed to help in organizing support for our concerns, and presenting our views to our lawmakers. **Your support is greatly needed.** If you desire to help, please contact the Board of Directors as soon as possible. Act now before it's too late.

## What is it with Plant Growth Regulators?

by Dr. Frank S. Rossi, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Reprinted with permission

It may seem like an odd title for an article, but, during my travels on the golf courses in Wisconsin it is one of the most widely asked questions.

Many superintendents do not understand this technology. It is not because we are not intelligent, not because we don't understand the concept, rather it is simply a case where technology arrives and we are not prepared to integrate it into our management schemes.

Do I use it for clipping reduction? Do I use it for Poa conversion? Do I use it to enhance green speed? Or do I use it because my green chairperson or owner or salesman said I should?

I would like to address these topics in a two-part article. First, I want to review some basic concepts in plant growth regulation, and second, I will discuss their implication in golf turf management and inform you about some of our research in this area.

Let's start at the very basics of growth. Plants in general create biomass (leaves, stems, roots, flowers) by producing new cells from existing cells which divide (cell division). Cell division increases the number of cells. Once the plant has new cells, these cells must stretch or elongate to make new organs (leaves, roots, flowers) by a process called cell elongation. These processes are indirectly regulated by a plant hormone, gibberillic acid (GA), much like our hormones regulate hair growth and the female reproductive cycle. As GA levels increase, growth (division and elongation) occurs and the plant creates new biomass.

Turfgrass growth regulation began as an idea some 50 years ago, probably by some disgruntled

homeowner who was tired of mowing. One of the first products used successfully in turf was maleic hydrazide (MH). MH suppressed foliar growth and seedhead formation of roadside vegetation. More recently, Mefluidide (*Embark & Embark Lite*) has been used primarily for *Poa annua* seedhead suppression on golf courses.

Mefluidide is absorbed by the leaves, most effectively at the base of the leaves, and does not move through the plant; this makes thorough spray coverage essential. Once it penetrates the leaf it begins to affect both cell division and cell elongation. Consequently, when it contacts a flowering stem (*Poa* seedhead) during formation (this fact makes timing essential) it causes it to distort and prevents seedhead emergence from the leaf sheath. Products which exhibit this type of activity are classified as **Type I Growth Regulators**, of which Mefluidide is the most common.

The other popular class of PGRs includes the materials which also act by inhibiting GA synthesis, but, apparently to a lesser degree than Mefluidide. This is evidenced by the suppression of cell elongation but not cell division. Products which exhibit this type of activity are classified as **Type II Growth Regulators**. Products in this class include Flurprimidol (*Cutless*), Paclobutrazol (*Turf Enhancer & TGR* active ingredient), and a new material—Cinmectacarb (*Primo*). Because these products primarily affect cell elongation and not division, the number of new cells is only slightly reduced while their ability to elongate is significantly altered. So, you get more small cells. This explains the altered morphol-

ogy of the turf leaves (wider leaf blades) and the short stumpy appearance of the plants (reduced internode length—the distance between new leaves). There is also some experimental evidence that indicates stolons of treated plants become more prostrate and rosettelike (like a witches broom). *Cutless* and *Turf Enhancer* are both primarily root-absorbed, while *Primo* is being advertised as primarily foliar absorbed. This could be a significant strategic use aspect in terms of the length and flexibility of regulation (more on this in my next article). The other significant factor in the use of PGRs is that they exhibit different degrees of regulation depending on the turf species. This is kind of a hassle for landscapers who want to regulate the growth of the entire mixed species home lawn; however, for the golf course superintendent it couldn't be a better deal. We thought.

The concept of regulating turfgrass growth goes right to the heart of what makes grass such a unique biological system. Grasses are constantly creating new biomass. Therefore, when using these products a manager must understand that there are trade-offs in quality and vigor which, if not compensated for, can make for some unhappy golfers. Be clear as to why you are using them. As I mentioned, there are various reasons for using them. Some are theoretically sound, others not so sound.

In my next article I will discuss management aspects of using PGRs for clipping reduction, green speed enhancement, and *Poa* conversion programs.

## Proposed By-law Change Announced

In accordance with our by-laws, Article XI, Section A, the BOD is announcing a proposed by-law change:

**Existing: Article VI, Section D—Retiring Directors.** A retiring director may not succeed himself as Director for a period of one year. He may, however, run for the position of an Officer of the Association.

**Proposed: Article VI, Section D—Director's Terms.** A Director may not succeed himself for more than one term whereupon he must retire for a period of at least one year. He may, however, run for the position of an officer of the Association.

**Existing: Article VI, Section A—Nominating Committee.** The Board of Directors, shall within sixty (60) days preceding the Annual Meeting appoint a Nominating Committee of three (3) voting members of the Association not more than one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors and such committee shall nominate one or more Class A members as candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer for one year and two or more Class A members for Directors for three (3) years. This committee is to be chaired by the immediate Past President of the Association.

**Proposed: Article VI, Section A—Nominating Committee.** The Board of Directors, shall within sixty (60) days preceding the Annual Meeting, appoint a Nominating Committee of three (3) voting members of the Association not more than one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors and such committee shall nominate one or more Class A members as candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer for one year and two or more Class A members for vacant Directors positions. This committee is to be chaired by the immediate Past President of the Association.

Under our current by-laws, a director who is elected to serve out an existing term may be able to serve only one or two years and then have to vacate the BOD. This happens when a director either resigns or becomes an officer before his term expires. This change will allow an individual to be elected to the BOD for a full term before he must decide to vacate the BOD or run for an officer's position. Many other associations operate under this parameter. The purpose is not to prolong a director's term, but to

help in maintaining continuity in the leadership of the association.

As always, please call a director if you have any questions about this change. This will come up for a vote on June 14, 1994 at the general meeting.

*Stephen Potter, CGCS  
Past President, MAAGCS &  
Chairman, Nominating Committee*

### Did You Know...

that the origin of the name of that lowly, pesky weed known as the dandelion is a fiercely proud one? The word comes from French *dent de lion*, "lion's tooth." It refers, of course, to the way the leaves resemble the toothy snarl of a lion. For several hundred years the dandelion also went by the English name "lion's tooth."

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## What You Should Know about the Legislative Process

The legislative process, the mechanism through which the laws of Maryland are enacted, is dynamic and complex. One hundred and eighty men and women are elected every four years to serve in the state's legislative branch to enact laws to protect the interests of Marylanders.

Legislation introduced in the General Assembly is legislators' response to the needs or desires of their constituency.

In Maryland an idea or concept must pass through many processes before it becomes law. Citizens of Maryland must approach their legislators to introduce a bill. If the legislator agrees to sponsor the legislation, the bill is drafted by legislative reference or the office of the Attorney General. Bills or resolutions may be introduced in advance of regular sessions.

**First Reading:** The Reading Clerk, when the session has convened, reads the title; the presiding officer assigns the bill to the appropriate committee. Bills may be introduced in either chamber during the first 45 days of the session. After that, bills may be introduced only with the consent of two-thirds of the membership.

**Reference to Committee:** The members of each committee meet to discuss the suggested legislation. Citizens are encouraged to present their views on the subject matter by mail or by personal appearance. Legislative agents (lobbyists), representing organized interest groups, speak at these hearings, either to oppose or support the proposed legislation.

Unfavorable committee action, which may mean legislative death, frequently requires as

much, or more, committee discussion and time as favorable committee action, which sends the bill to the floor for second reading and floor consideration.

**Second Reading and Floor Consideration:** The bill is reported to the committee (favorably, unfavorably, or without recommendation, and with or without committee amendment). Test votes may be taken at this stage of a bill's progress. It is open to amendment from the floor, and the ultimate form of the bill must be determined on second reading. Committee action may be reversed but this is unusual.

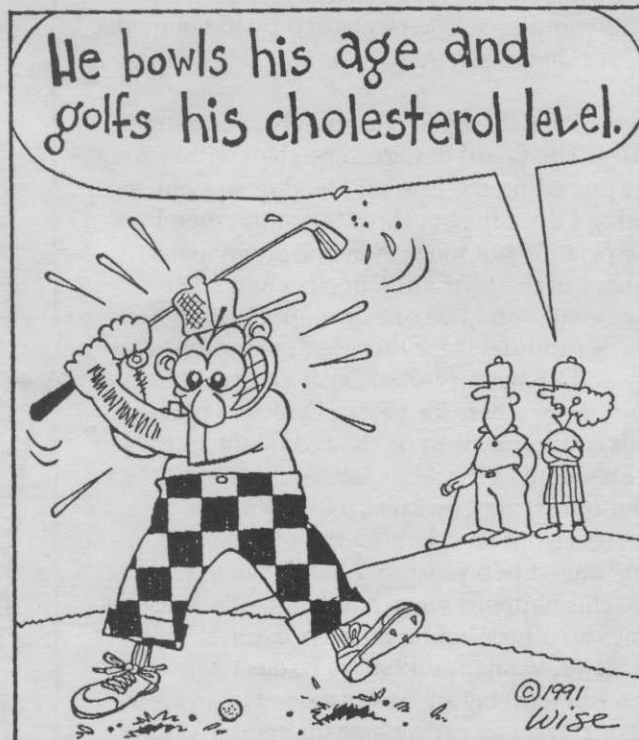
**Third Reading:** The bill must be printed for third reading with all amendments written in the final version. No amendments may be presented in the chamber of its origin, and the bill must be

passed by a majority of the elected membership. [We are here—March 21 or 22.]

**Second Chamber:** The procedure follows a pattern identical with that of the chamber in which the bill originated, with the exception that amendments may be presented at both the second and third reading in the second chamber. If not amended in the second chamber, final passage may occur without reprinting.

**In Case of Amendment....**The vote is taken here on a motion to concur or reject. If concurrence is voted, no reprinting or the bill is necessary for final action. If the rejection is voted, several courses of action are possible. (1) Request to other chamber for withdrawal of amendment, or (2) upon refusal

*continued on page 8*



## Legislative Representation

In November, 1972, Maryland voters approved a constitutional amendment dividing the State of Maryland into 47 legislative districts. Each of these districts is represented by one senator and three delegates. Each district represents citizens and must, by the State constitution, be of equal population. Each district may be divided into three delegate sub-districts or one multi-member delegate district.

In districts that contain more than two counties or parts of more than two counties, and where the delegates are elected at large, no county or part of county is allowed to have more than one resident delegate.

Legislative districts are re-defined every 10 years according to population recorded by a census. The governor, according

to the constitution, must present his legislative districting plan to the General Assembly for adoption.

The legislative powers of the State of Maryland are vested in the General Assembly, which consists of two branches—the Senate and the House of Delegates. Every senator or delegate must be a citizen of the State and a resident for at least one year preceding the date of his or her election. For six months prior to his election, he must have resided in his legislative district. A senator must be at least 25 years of age at the time of his or her election and a delegate must be at least 21 years of age.

The term of each senator and delegate is four years from the second Wednesday of January following the date of election.

When a vacancy occurs in either house through death, resignation, or disqualification, the governor is required to appoint a person whose name is submitted by the State Central Committee of the political party with which the vacating delegate or senator has been affiliated.

The General Assembly meets annually. Sessions begin the second Wednesday in January for a period of not longer than 90 days. The General Assembly may extend its sessions for an additional 30 days by resolution approved by three-fifths vote of the membership in the House and three-fifths in the Senate.

The governor may call special sessions at any time he deems necessary, for a period no longer than 30 days.

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**Legislative process**

*continued from page 6*

of withdrawal of amendment, either chamber may request a conference committee to adjust the difference between the two chambers.

**Presentation of Bill to Governor:** If a bill is presented to the governor more than six days before the General Assembly adjourns and is not vetoed within six

days, or if a bill is presented within six days prior to the adjournment of the General Assembly and is not vetoed within 30 days after presentation, then the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature.

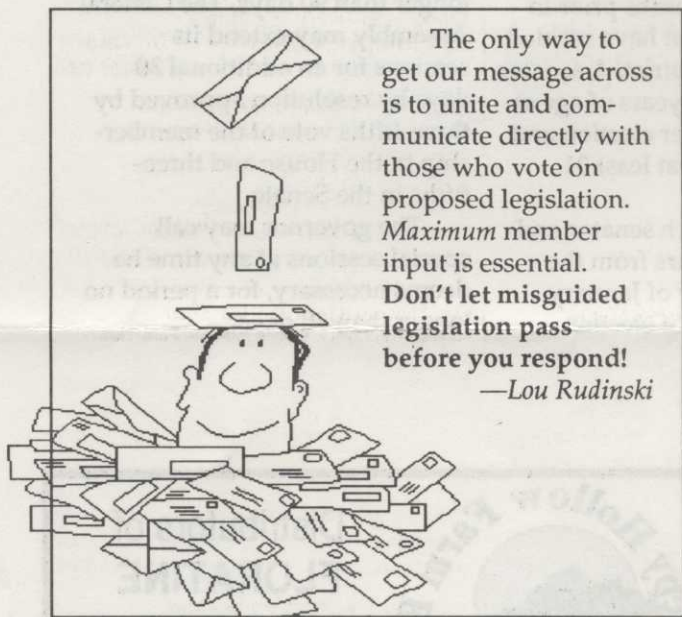
**Conference Committee:** A report of a conference committee goes back to both chambers to be adopted

or rejected without amendment. If adopted, the bill is passed. If rejected by either, the bill is passed. If rejected by either, the bill is dead.

**Legislative Power to Override Veto:** If a bill is vetoed during a regular session, the veto message is considered immediately. If a bill presented during or after the last six days of a session is vetoed, the veto message must be considered immediately at the next regular or special session of the Legislature. A three-fifths vote of elected membership of both chambers is necessary to override the veto.

**Legislation the Governor May Not**

**Veto:** The Budget Bill presented by him to the General Assembly and constitutional amendments may not be vetoed. The Governor is responsible for presenting a balanced budget to the General Assembly with supporting data and recommendations. The Legislature, with certain limitations, has the power to reduce the Governor's budget proposals but it cannot increase them. A supplementary appropriations bill is the one vehicle by which the legislature may increase state appropriations.



The only way to get our message across is to unite and communicate directly with those who vote on proposed legislation. *Maximum* member input is essential. Don't let misguided legislation pass before you respond!

—Lou Rudinski

### Following bills through the legislative process can be fun and educational. It is also easy.

During the 90-day session, several legislative offices will supply information to the public. These offices have at their disposal computers which follow the progress of each bill from the time it is introduced. They can tell where a bill has been assigned, whether it was passed in committee, whether it was amended and the result of the floor vote.

For such information, you can call Legislative Reference at 841-3810, or 1-800-492-7122.

Another means of keeping up with legislation is to call the committee to which the bill has been assigned.

Many of the larger newspapers also publish daily listings of bills introduced in, or acted upon, by both the House and Senate.

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