

# Turfgrass Matters



December 1994, vol. 46, no.10

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## 1994 Annual Meeting to be held at Turf Valley

**Date:** *Thursday*, December 1, 1994

**Where:** Turf Valley Hotel and Country Club

**Time:** Cocktails - 6:00 p.m.

Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$35 - includes complimentary beer, wine, soda, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Topic:** Annual meeting and election

**Golf:** Time available after 11:30 a.m. (weather permitting); call 410-465-0595 to reserve time.

There is no cost for golf. Carts are complimentary.

**Directions:** *from Baltimore:* Take I-695 to Exit 16 (I-70 west toward Frederick). Follow I-70 to Exit 83 (Marriottsville Rd.) Go to the first traffic light and turn left onto Route 40. Go .7 of a mile and turn left onto Turf Valley Road. Entrance to Turf Valley will be on the left. Meeting will be held in the Clubhouse building.

*From Washington:* Take Route 29 to I-70 West and use the Baltimore directions to Turf Valley.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A sincere thank-you to Donn Dietrich and the Maryland Golf and CC for hosting the November membership meeting. The club's hospitality, wonderfully conditioned golf course, and fine dinner made a great fall day even greater. Donn, hats off to you and your staff and to everyone involved.



Although our guest speaker had to cancel, GCSAA director George Renault, and GCSAA liaison Nick Vance filled in admirably with an update on current affairs at GCSAA headquarters. Questions from the floor showed some concern and created a lively session.

In this my final message to the MAAGCS, I would like to thank the officers and directors for their outstanding dedication and sacrifice of the precious time from job and family affairs to the MAAGCS. This year found us entering unexplored areas, including environmental legislation proposals in Annapolis, testimonies to the Governor's Pesticide Council, research into the feasibility of management services to benefit the MAAGCS, as well as the joining of various green industries into a strong coalition to address issues that could affect all involved. I cannot

list all the jobs everyone did in this message. However, I can say, everyone far exceeded job descriptions. Again, thank you to all who served! Thank you, the members of this association, for your confidence in allowing us to serve you and direct the MAAGCS into the future.

Disappointments were few. Leading the short list of these would be my inability to convince more commercial vendors, as well as you and your club, of the need to assist the MAAGCS, both monetarily and personally on the legislative front. The 1995 sessions will test the industry standards at your very own golf club. Dean Graves is working with the Maryland State Golf Association to secure additional monies and guidance with issues that lie ahead. Golfer input to state legislators will have an important impact on how legislation is reviewed. Please, please send in your pledge now!!! Perhaps you do not feel it is your or your club's duty to fight misguided legislation. Who then will spend time with district legislators, or be in Annapolis talking to state legislators, writing letters of concern, or testifying to the committees that recommend actions to be taken???

The Maryland Turfgrass Annual Conference and Trade show promises a very environmental theme. Local and national speakers are scheduled to inform you of the latest studies and recommendations. See you in Baltimore on January 9.

*Lou Rudinski, President*

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## Association Management Update

### Board to announce choice of management firm at the Annual Meeting on December 1.

The MAAGCS Board of Directors has entered into the final stages of negotiations with an Association Management Company to handle the administrative duties of the association. This significant event is going to help improve the efficiency of the Association, improve services to the membership and also free the board members to concentrate more on issues that will effect the association in the coming years.

The management company will offer the MAAGCS a central point of communication to gather and dispense information in a timely fashion. An 800 number will be put in place to make it easier for all members to 'stay in touch.' Sending out newsletters, job referrals, meeting notices, etc. will be done in a professional manner. The "inner workings" will also become more streamlined and efficient.

As elections are upon us, the

ability to attract superintendents to run for the board of directors has once again been a challenge. The business has changed, our jobs require more time (more year-round time) and the time for families cannot, and should not, be compromised. Serving on the board of directors is a time-consuming commitment, one that needs to fit in one's schedule. The biggest percentage of time spent by a board member is taken up by paperwork. By eliminating the paperwork, the time is reduced, and what time is taken can be used for helping our profession move forward. We hope that the association management company will be a success and that success will encourage more members to decide to serve on the board of directors because their time spent will be quality time. The announcement for the company chosen to serve as our association manager will be made at the annual meeting on December 1 at Turf Valley. We hope to be able to introduce the principals to the membership and everyone will get a chance to meet the new group.

In closing, I would like to thank a number of people for the time and effort put into our Long Range Planning Committee. It all started well over a year ago with a membership survey. In addition to the board of directors, I wish to acknowledge Walter Montross, Rhys Arthur, Donn Dietrich and anyone I may have missed (hopefully I didn't!) for their invaluable work. It is these people, and those who served the association before them who have made the MAAGCS what it is today! Thank you.

*Michael Gilmore, Chairman  
Long Range Planning Committee*



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## COHOON'S CORNER

○ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Angie Cammarota who was in and out of the hospital recently with heart problems. Angie is home now and, according to Dave Cammarota, is resting uncomfortably while he awaits future medical treatments. Get better soon, Angie.

○ Also on the health front, Ann Braun, wife of member Ken Braun, has returned to work after being paralyzed from the waist down. A specially designed assistive device allows her to continue her duties as general manager at Towson Golf & CC.

○ Congratulations are in order to Tom Walsh who scored a hole-in-one on #15 at Westwood Country Club. What I want to know is...are the drinks on Tom this meeting?  
m Many thanks go out to the following companies for their

generous support of the MAAGCS Legislative Fund: United Horticultural Supply, Chesapeake Environmental Supply, Egypt Farms, Inc., Helena Chemical Company, Mid-Atlantic PGA, Maryland State Golf Association, Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association.

## GOLF NOTES

Many thanks to Donn Dietrich and his staff at Maryland Golf and Country Club for the fine hospitality and great golf course at the 4-man scramble. The course was in excellent shape and the pin placements certainly challenged the players. Thanks again, Donn, and congratulations on a job well done!

The winners for the day were:  
1st - John Newcomb, Tom Wojick, Tom Walsh, Dave Shannon, and Mitch Williams; 2nd - Walter

Smith, Dave Hall, Rodney Avis, and Keith Pitchford.

There will be no organized golf format for the December meeting, however. Anyone wishing to play may do so by calling our host for the month, Mike Gilmore at 410-465-0595.

Since November's meeting was the last golf tournament for the year, I would like to take this time to thank all our host superintendents for their hospitality and efforts in hosting a meeting. We certainly had the opportunity to play many fine courses that were all in great shape. Gentlemen, thanks to you all.

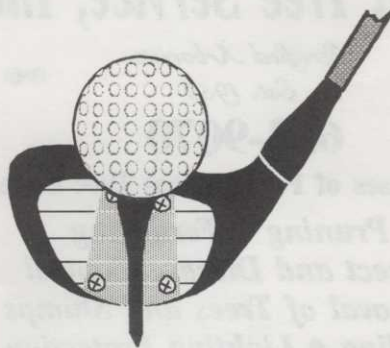
Come on out to the December meeting to find out who will be this year's Player of the Year. It was a close race and was not determined until the scramble.

One final note to my foursome from the scramble: the spur marks have just about healed.

*Jim McHenry, Golf Chairman*

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# Chlorosis - Not Yellow Tuft

by Peter H. Dernoeden, The University of Maryland

Every spring and autumn samples of yellowing bentgrass or annual bluegrass from greens are sent for diagnosis. Often we are asked if yellow tuft disease is the problem, and seldom has this been the case. Yellow tuft plants are distinctively tufted and are most conspicuous during cool and wet periods. Plants infected by the yellow tuft fungus (*Sclerophthora macrospora*) produce large numbers of tillers. Healthy plants have 4 to 8 tillers; whereas, yellow tuft plants from putting greens typically have 15 or more tillers. Furthermore, yellow tuft plants are easily detached from putting greens, because roots of infected plants are abnormally short and bunched. Yellow tuft is most commonly observed in the winter and spring following a fall seeding or heavy overseeding.

Chlorosis or yellowing is caused by a lack of chlorophyll production or an abnormal breakdown in chlorophyll levels. Chlorosis can be caused by nutrient deficiencies. The most common would include high nitrogen use in combination with low potassium levels in soil; and iron (Fe) or magnesium (Mg) deficiencies. Iron and Mg deficiencies are uncommon in our soils. In sandy putting green mixes, Fe deficiencies can occur. Other factors, however, can limit Fe or Mg uptake such as extremes in soil pH, and possibly cold and wet weather. Because most problems with non-uniform chlorosis appear in our area during spring and fall, it seems likely that environmental conditions that interfere with root uptake of Fe, Mg or other micronutrients are the cause. These weather conditions can inhibit chlorophyll production and retention levels in plants. Both spring and fall are characterized by generally warm days and cool nights. These conditions stimulate rapid growth of cool season grasses. Cool to cold nights slow the ability of plants to produce sufficient chlorophyll levels to meet the needs of rapidly increasing leaf and sheath tissues. As a result, chlorosis develops.

Chlorosis is also very common on perennial ryegrass fairways. Like greens, the chlorosis on fairways develops in pockets. There is often no apparent relationship between the appearance of chlorosis and soil condition (i.e., well-drained vs. wet.) Chlorosis, however, may be somewhat more common in shaded or wet sites, but these factors are not associated with all chlorosis problems.

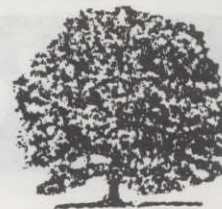
In most situations the chlorosis dissipates within a few weeks. Occasionally, however, it debilitates

plants, especially annual bluegrass. The application of a micronutrient product may be beneficial should thinning of the turf become evident. Because Fe and Mg are greatly involved in chlorophyll production, they are frequently recommended. Iron sulfate (1-2 oz/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>) or chelated Fe (Ferremec, Lesco Fe + N, or Sprint) materials are suggested. Epsom salts (2.0 oz/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>) are a good source of Mg. Also, next time N is to be applied use a complete fertilizer (i.e., N + P + K). Covering chlorotic greens with blankets during unusually cold spring or autumn nights also may help to reduce the yellowing.

There are other causes of generalized chlorosis and they would include the following: use of extremely high seeding rates that result in huge numbers of crowded plants occupying a small space; excessively wet or poorly drained soils that become temporarily anaerobic; plant parasitic nematodes; Pythium induced root dysfunction, and other diseases. In the case of these latter situations, chlorosis could develop at almost any time of year.

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## Proposed ADA Guidelines for Golf Courses Ready for Public Comment

The following information was excerpted from the "Recommendations for Accessibility Guidelines: Recreational Facilities and Outdoor Developed Areas" published by the Recreation Access Advisory Committee. These Guidelines are not the final law but have been proposed to supplement the "Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines." Note that the information here deals only with new construction or altered golf courses. Make sure you know the meaning of the "altered" before you think this doesn't apply to you. The information was provided for public comment only. It is very important that comments be made both for and against the guidelines. If no positive comments are received it will be interpreted to mean that revisions can be made, good or bad.

The purpose of this overview is to provide supplemental information to complement the proposed guidelines developed for the game of golf by the golf subcommittee under the recreation access advisory committee.

**Accessible Route.** A golf course will not be required to have an accessible route for play of the game through the green. However, most amenities and elements of the golf course (such as toilet rooms, snack bars, tees, greens, weather shelters, etc.) shall be accessible from the golf car path, or the golf car parking area if paths or such areas are provided.

- One teeing ground on each hole would have to be accessible, but not all teeing grounds. Accessible tees for each hole should be indicated on the scorecard.

- Where practice tees are provided, a minimum of one

teeing station or 5% of those provided—whichever is greater—shall be accessible.

- Where practice putting or chipping greens are provided, at least one shall be accessible.

- Bunkers and hazards are not accessible, and are not required to be with the exception of practice bunkers. Where practice bunkers are provided at least one of each shall be accessible.

- Where toilet rooms are provided on a golf course, such toilet rooms shall be located on an accessible route from the golf car path, if provided, or golf car parking area, if provided.

- Where weather shelters are provided which serve the golf players, they shall have clear space at least 5' by 8' to allow at least one golf car to be pulled underneath. This space is in addition to normal space provided for sheltering.

- Accessible parking spaces serving a particular golf course shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel from adjacent parking lot to an accessible entrance of the golf course.

- Passenger loading zones (bag drops) shall provide an access aisle at least 60 in. wide and 20 ft long adjacent to the vehicle pull-up space.

- When provided, teeing ground signage shall conform to ADAAG Sections 4.30.1, 4.30.2, 4.30.3, and 4.30.5 (specifications for these sections was not provided and questions should be addressed to the access board if you need additional information). Sprinkler head yardage marking is exempt from these sections.

**Alterations.** If a putting green is completely rebuilt, which includes changing the contouring

or elevations of the green, then it must be made accessible. Changing the type of grass by resodding or reseeding, changing the mowing pattern, and changing or replacing the irrigation system does not constitute an alteration.

If an existing teeing ground is altered on one or more holes at a golf course, a teeing ground on that hole shall be made accessible from the golf car path or from golf car parking areas. Alteration means changing the physical dimensions (length, width, or elevation) of the teeing ground. Resodding, reseeding, changing the type of grass, or adding sprinklers, are not considered alterations.

Each existing practice area, if altered as follows, shall be made accessible. Alterations would be changing the physical size or if the number of hitting areas is increased or decreased, or changing from hard surface to grass or vice versa. Resodding, reseeding, topdressing existing grass, adding or eliminating sprinklers or lighting are not considered alterations.

Repairs and maintenance to cart paths and weather shelters are not considered alterations. However, any additions or expansions must be accessible.

**Conclusion.** We urge you to call for a copy of the guidelines so you can fully review them and respond with your comments. This issue will affect us all. It is imperative that our viewpoints be heard before these proposed guidelines are enacted into law. The access board can be reached for comment at 202-272-5434 (Peggy Greenwell, Sydni Ann Shollenberger). The comment period ends December 20, 1994.

## Stress? Who Me?

by Kathy Antaya, Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

After reading a brief article on job stress, I have no trouble believing that the stress level for a golf course superintendent ranks among the top six professions. These include police officers, fire fighters, emergency room personnel, prison guards and air traffic controllers. While our jobs don't normally involve life-and-death situations, superintendents are constantly bombarded with numerous problems that require our attention. These small (and not so small) problems add up over time and can create the Atlas Syndrome—a feeling of carrying the world on one's shoulders.

Stress build-up starts first thing in the morning when a staff member calls in sick, equipment won't run properly and you spill coffee on yourself. It continues during the day with equipment breakdowns, jobs taking longer than expected and unpleasant meetings with greens committees, general managers, golf pros or the DNR! Later in the day you

find disease outbreaks, wilted turf, cart damage from careless golfers and hand tools forgotten at job sites. Arriving home after work you find the cat barfed on your carpet, the newspaper landed in a puddle, your lawn is infested with weeds and bills need to be paid. What a day. In actuality, this would be a low-stress day for me.

So what can one do to eliminate these situations? We can't get rid of all the problems, but we can change our reactions and do things that we enjoy to eliminate the stressed-out feelings.

**Begin** your stress reduction plan by removing obstacles.

Personnel problems? Gather your staff together for a meeting and let 'em have it. Clarify your policies, give real examples of problem behaviors/attitudes. Set your standards and expectations and define the consequences (i.e. work or get fired) Be certain to end the meeting praising them for the good work they have done.

**Step two** of your plan involves reducing the problems that reach you.

Delegate responsibility wherever possible. For example, when installing drain tile, I delegate a "chief" to lead the crew. The crew chief organizes equipment and supplies needed, assigns tasks and approves each step of the project. He/she also gives you feedback concerning reasonable completion deadlines and unexpected problems. There are three very important aspects to delegation of specific tasks: 1) thorough definition of the job, including why they were chosen as chief, what you are trying to accomplish, and how to know when it's done; 2) give the crew chief authority to make field changes and to run the crew; and 3) allow the crew chief to make mistakes (but then fix them). Delegating authority takes some practice before it significantly reduces your stress. With the possible exception of your assistant, no staff member is as educated, experienced, or dedicated as you. Allowances must be made for these factors. I am a perfectionist, but if I were to hold my staff to this goal, they would be miserable from continuous criticism and unable to complete any task in a timely manner.

**Your third step** is mental adjustment. Don't expect everything to be done perfectly every time. Setting high standards is good, but life gives you imperfect conditions, people, equipment, and/or supplies. You must be realistic. Don't let the small problems build up. Say something before you

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explode.

Another mental adjustment involves your to-do list. Don't expect to finish every item every day. Remember, the world keeps turning even when you don't place that order or make that phone call. One of my favorite mental adjustments involves our internal tape recorder. Every day we repeat to ourselves certain messages. We've done it for so long we no longer consciously hear it. Usually these messages are negative: "I have too much work and not enough time;" "the golf course looks terrible," "I'll probably hit this ball into the water."

We need to replace the negative with positive and do it regularly and consciously: "One person can do only so much, "I know that if I relax and swing easy I can reach the green." In other words, pat yourself on the back, you are a valuable and worthwhile human being.

My final suggestion for

mental adjustment is laughter. Research has determined that laughter can reduce blood pressure, heart rate and stress levels. I listen to my staff at break times...their conversations never fail to crack me up. Laugh at the

**Research has determined that laughter can reduce blood pressure, heart rate and stress levels**

funny stories about your own mistakes—the crew appreciates hearing about your errors and you will learn to forgive yourself for not being perfect. Don't take yourself or your job too seriously and you'll find plenty of opportunities to laugh.

**My final stress reduction suggestion** is to do more of what you like. Frustrated with the paperwork that university employment requires, I'll grab a shovel and dig trenches or spread

sand with my staff. I enjoy physical labor and sometimes wish I was still on the crew. (Wouldn't that be great? No responsibilities, just do what you are told.)

Schedule time off for yourself during the summer. I've found it useless to try to leave early unless I've put it on my calendar. Take a long lunch and visit another course. Golf or just ride around with the superintendent. Of course you must make some time for non-work-related activities. Schedule more time for family and friends. Play your favorite sports. go boating or fishing. The list is as diverse as we are. What you do doesn't matter; what's important is that you enjoy it.

Our lives are filled with stressful situations. Reduce the problems that reach you. Change your reactions and attitudes and make time for enjoyable activities. These things worked for me. I feel more enthusiastic and have more

*See Watered Down, page 8*

## Our Watered-Down Game

*by Brad Faxon, PGA Professional*

*Reprinted from the September 2, 1994 issue of Golf World*

Golf in America is too green.

I'm serious. What America needs is a good old-fashioned water shortage. Green is pretty. It's beautiful. It's pleasing to look at. I like green. But it doesn't make golf courses play the way they should, the way they were meant to play.

Green means lush. Green equals soft. And soft isn't good. Over-watered golf courses have become the standard in America. The word "roll" isn't even in an American player's vocabulary anymore. I think that's unfortunate. The scope of the problem,

however, goes way beyond the setup of the PGA Tour courses.

America's obsession with green has changed golf. The way American courses are maintained has changed the way equipment is made, the way courses are designed and the way people swing.

Look at the courses. All of a sudden, we're playing courses where you've got to hit the ball up in the air and stop it. Architecture went from Tillinghast, Mackenzie and Ross to Nicklaus and Dye. The game went from horizontal to vertical.

Look in your bag. Perimeter

weighted clubs make the ball to higher. (The better to play those new courses.) Square grooves make the ball spin and stop quicker out of the rough. And then there's the lob wedge. (The better to escape Pete Dye death bunkers.) The old Brits never had an L-wedge. They never needed one off those tight lies.

Look at the swings. We went from swings like Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson to more upright swings like Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus, guys who hit the ball real high. The current popular swing has become more upright.



### Watered Down, from page 7

Go back to the history of golf in Scotland. Courses were just laid out on the ground somewhere near the coast. They had no irrigation. They relied totally on the weather. Golf was played along the ground. The elements made the conditions tough. And you had a sand-based soil that was easy to keep firm. There were a lot of tight, hard fairways and you had to bump the ball along the ground and allow for roll.

I'm not blaming American superintendents. If there's a brown spot on a country club these days, the greens committee calls an emergency meeting. I think the club members see the Bob Hope Classic or the Masters on television and say, "That's what we ought to have."

So these courses look great but they don't play the way they should. I grew up on a classic old Donald Ross course, Rhode Island CC. The first hole is a short par four, open in front of the green. When I started out as a caddie, the members would hit a 5- or 6-iron, land it 10 or 15 yards short of the green and let it bounce onto the putting surface. That's how you played. You used the contours and allowed

for them.

When I went back to play there during college, maintenance had changed the course. I hit 5-irons out of the rough that backed up. Balls stuck on the greens. The course was so much softer and easier. People at the club said, "Brad, this is the best this course has ever been" I said, "No, this is the *greenest* it's ever been." and they didn't even know what I was talking about.

Green is O.K. if it's firm. That isn't the case in the U.S. where over-water reigns. Warwick Hills, home

**If there's a brown spot  
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emergency meeting.**

of the Buick Open, is one of the longest courses we play and always gives up some of the lowest scores. I played there Monday after the tournament and talked to the head pro. He told me the superintendent is scared to death that the tour will starve the course and he won't be able to keep it green after the tournament. So he drenches it for two weeks before, but we had rain this year, our drives plugged and we played preferred lies the first few rounds.

You want to know why foreign players are dominating professional golf? Because they play firm courses in the wind and still play bump-and-run shots and have a lot of imagination. American players have had those shots taken from them. The courses are too lush.

Remember what Jose Maria Olazabal did at the final hole of the Masters? He pulled his iron shot and ran it down the slope. He was past the hump in the middle of the green. He played what I think was the shot of the tournament, a bump-and-run down the hill and saved par. It was an incredible shot. If that had been the Buick Open, say, he have just pulled out a sand wedge, flipped it up and stuck it right next to the flagstick. Where's the challenge in that?

The USGA has the right idea. When it was deciding whether to go back to Newport CC, a true links, for the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Amateur, the club's membership was in favor of the idea and said, "Don't worry, we'll make sure we get a sprinkler system in by 1995." The USGA told them, "If you put in a sprinkler system, we're not going to hold the even there."

That's the way golf was meant to be. Now, what do you say we turn off the sprinklers and play some *real* golf?



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