

Turfgrass Matters



March 1994, vol. 46, no. 1

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

March 8 Meeting To Be Held at Norbeck CC

Bruce Zickafoose to welcome MAAGCS members to first meeting of 1994.

Norbeck Country Club opened its 18-hole golf course to a private membership in the summer of 1954. Its design was conceived by Alfred Tull who was also responsible for Westwood Country Club and the North Course at Woodmont. Edmund Ault redesigned the 15th and 16th greens in the 1960s, and Arthur Hills the third hole in 1990.

Many positive changes have occurred at Norbeck in recent years and the next few months will see even more. At the top of the list are a major clubhouse renovation and a new 30X100 ft. building for the maintenance division.

Our host, Bruce Zickafoose, obtained his B.S. in agronomy in 1989 from the University of Maryland while working under Ken Ingram at Columbia Country Club. He then moved on to become the Assistant Superintendent to John Haley at Westwinds Country Club in Mt. Airy, Maryland.

After a two-year tenure as superintendent of Cranbury Golf Club in Cranbury, New Jersey, Bruce is thrilled to be back in his home territory.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A sincere THANK YOU for electing me president of the MAAGCS. Hopefully I will continue my predecessors' tradition of keeping the Association strong financially and moving forward.

For many of us the winter has been one ice/snow storm after another. I wish I held stock in Road Salt and Urea. Time will tell if the harsh winter has had an impact on sensitive putting green turf. Good luck to all.

The board of directors has been hard at work with what promises to be a very busy year. The Long Range Committee, chaired by Mike Gilmore, is setting the stage for implementation of a professional management team to assist us in the day-to-day operation of the association. New board member Sean Remington is continuing strong educational programs as was evident by the turnout for February's Pesticide Program at Turf Valley. As you are aware, the pesticide issue is in the limelight. Dean Graves and Steve Potter have been in close contact with Mark Schlossberg of the Maryland Alliance for Responsible Regulation of Pesticides, Inc. MARRP has hired a lobbyist to



assist in pre-emption legislation in the Maryland General Assembly, and has requested our help financially and professionally in this and other matters that affect the day-to-day operation of all Maryland superintendents. Lastly, communications chairman Steve Cohoon will continue his efforts to deliver a quality newsletter we can all be proud of. This is a small part of this year's activities. The rest of the board will be carrying out their duties to provide the membership an association of which it can be proud.

Plan to attend the March meeting at Norbeck Country Club with our host Bruce Zickafoose. It has been several years since we have been there, so get the rust of your clubs, meet with good friends and have a great day.

Lou Rudinski, President

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MAAGCS Newsletter

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NEW MEMBERS

The MGGACS welcomes the following new members to its ranks. Please make them feel at home at our next meeting.

Jeffrey Vietmeier
University of Maryland GC

Michael Legere CGCS
Holly Hills CC

Paul Latshaw
Congressional CC

Robert Windham
Patuxent Greens GC

Winter Damage Alert

by Steve Potter, Past President, MAAGCS

As this article is written, only about 50% of the golf courses in the area have seen the sun since the first of the year. Weather reports say more winter precipitation has never been seen in the Mid-Atlantic and there is a real concern about snow mold. Any areas not already protected for snow mold probably have some, and many treated areas may become infected because the level of control has diminished. It is important that the course, especially the greens, be checked even if it means digging up some snow and ice and visually inspecting the turf. If any active damage is found, a course of action can be planned so that when the snow melts, the course can be scouted to see what areas have been damaged beyond threshold levels and treated for control.

If you are trying to grow bermuda, it would be a good idea to cut some plugs out and place them in a greenhouse to see if they are alive. If a greenhouse is not available, make one out of a two-liter plastic soda bottle. If you suspect that you may have areas that will not be coming out of dormancy (that's nicer than saying they're dead), estimate the size of the areas and get your seed and seeders ready. You may even want to consider some dormant seeding if you are sure these areas will not green up in the spring. If this winter continues, you may well want to reconsider your pre-emerge program or at least check and see what the possible effects are on bermuda that is trying to break dormancy later in the spring. A modified pre-emerge program may be in order, or even a post-emerge program in such an unusual year as this one.

As if these two scenarios

aren't bad enough, there is a real possibility of some ice damage this year, especially to those of you with *poa annua* in the greens. If there are any greens that have not been open to the air and had time to drain off, it would be advisable to attempt to remove any remaining ice. This can include mechanical removal with pitch forks, breaking up the ice with sledge hammers or tampers, or even using an aerator to break up the ice as demonstrated in a talk at the National in Dallas. The other alternative is to melt it using an organic fertilizer, an organic supplement or topdressing. If there is snow on the ice, remove it first to give the dark material every opportunity to do its job.

Hopefully, none of these problems has besieged you and spring will reveal a healthy turf ready to be prepared for another season. Best of luck and have a great 1994 season.

GOLF NOTES

Our first golf outing of the year is almost upon us. I know it's hard to believe after all the snow and sleet this winter. Hopefully all that bad weather will be gone in time for us to play. Tee times begin at 1:00 and can be reserved by calling the pro shop at 301-774-7706. The fee for carts is \$10.

A large number of Mid-Atlantic members participated in this year's GCSAA championships in Austin, Texas. Several were winners: Nick Vance, CGCS—2nd net, Senior I Flight; Bill Shirk, CGCS—7th gross, First Flight; George Renault, CGCS—11th net, Second Flight; Steve Cohoon, CGCS—12th gross, First Flight.

James McHenry, Golf Chairman

Legal Alert: MAAGCS BOD Urges Action

There are 11 bills concerning pesticide issues currently being debated in the Maryland General Assembly. Three of these—HB 220, 334, and 948—directly affect golf course operations. They propose changes of existing preemption of local regulations and notification of pesticide applications.

Uniform Regulation of Pesticides (HB 948). This bill would give the state power to preempt local jurisdictions from adopting any restrictive ordinances with respect to pesticides without a formal review by the state. In essence, local entities would only be able to enforce a rule more stringent than state regulation under special circumstances *with* State Review Board approval.

There are several reasons why local agencies should not be allowed to enforce their own ordinances without review. Most local governments do not have the expertise or the coordination with state and federal agencies needed for effective regulation of pesticides. If local jurisdictions were allowed to develop regulations independently, a wide variety of duplicate, overlapping, restrictive, and possibly expensive requirements could be enacted. Finally, if approved, this bill would still allow local rules to be adopted under special circumstances where deemed appropriate. *The MAAGCS Board is very supportive of this legislation.*

Notification and Report of Pesticides on Golf Courses (HB220 and 334). These respective bills affect owners and/or operators of golf courses to increase various notification, disclosure, and reporting practices associated with pesticide applications. The

bill requires notice of pesticide application be posted for one week following the date of usage. The bill goes on to say, "For regularly scheduled applications of pesticides, the owner or operator of the golf course may comply with the notification requirement...of this subsection by posting in advance a schedule of pesticide applications."

"At the time an individual makes a reservation for a prospective tee time at a golf course subject to this section, the owner or operator of the golf course shall disclose to the individual the name, classification, and date and area of application of each pesticide that is scheduled or expected to be applied to the golf course within three days preceding the prospective tee time."

The bill further states, "By December 1 of each year, the owner or operator of each golf course subject to this section shall submit to the Department a report specifying the name, classification, quantity, and date of application of each pesticide applied to the golf course during the period beginning November 1 of the previous year through October 31 of the current year." If enacted this will take effect October 1, 1994.

The MAAGCS BOD strongly opposes this bill for the following reasons: Similar posting is currently a practice by superintendents on public courses and ones having voluntarily passed the MDA certification program. Furthermore, disclosure of pesticide information to individuals for a prospective tee time within three days prior to a scheduled or expected application would completely negate any IPM program. It would mean applying pesticides by a preset calendar

rather than by monitoring—as IPM practices teach us—thereby greatly restricting our flexibility.

The submission of a report of specified requirements would be a duplication of existing laws. To comply with existing federal laws (SARA Title III and Community Right to Know) we should already be giving respective agencies this information.

It is urgent that our views on legislation concerning pesticide regulations be heard by all appropriate delegates and senators. Groups like RISE, MARRP, and MAAGCS are working to make sure this happens. However, the more individuals who become involved and voice our concerns to legislators, the better our chance to preserve our rights associated with pesticide usage.

If we do not take a firm stand now it will be harder for us to be heard in the future.

Please write and call your local legislator now.

MAAGCS Board of Directors

MAAGCS Employment Referral Service

The employment referral is one of the most used services offered to the members of the MAAGCS. It offers information about position openings mostly in the Mid-Atlantic that may not be advertised through the GCSAA or elsewhere. Each opening is very well advertised and this local service hopefully gives our members a fair opportunity to apply for the position. For those needing to advertise an opening, the past president should be contacted for details. A good set of guidelines are available to you to help you fill your opening with the most qualified applicant.

GCSAA Announces Next Phase of Health Research Program

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America announced plans on February 6 to implement the second phase of the association's planned in-depth study of occupational health issues. GCSAA will launch a new series of health research projects and expand its commitment to chemical applicator education.

The new series will advance a preliminary statistical study conducted by an independent research team from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. Results of the study, commissioned by GCSAA Scholarship & Research, were announced at the annual conference in Dallas.

The study was a statistical analysis of death certificates of 618 former GCSAA members who died between 1970 and 1992.

Researchers found that the group had a higher rate of mortality from lung cancer than the general population. They also found higher-than-average mortality for a number of other cancers, including brain, large intestine, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and prostate.

The research team was led by Dr. Burton Kross, UI associate professor of preventive medicine and environmental health, and director of the UI's Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health.

"From a public and occupational health perspective, the excess number of lung cancer deaths is a primary concern," Kross said. Lung and other head and neck cancers have been strongly associated with cigarette and cigar smoking, but Kross strongly cautioned that no cause-and-effect relationship to any illness can be determined by this statistical analysis. According to

researchers, a statistical study cannot be interpreted to link any particular factor to cause death.

Stephen F. Mona, GCSAA executive director/CEO, said, "GCSAA initiated and financed this study because we needed to establish a baseline for future research. We now have that baseline and can better identify what merits further investigation."

"Our mission in funding this independent mortality study was to begin the first phase of an overall look at occupational health and safety issues that affect our members," Mona continued. "This is a long-term commitment to ensuring that superintendents work in a safe and healthy environment."

The next phase of the overall effort could include helping association members stop smoking, expanding GCSAA's current education and training programs, and completing a statistical mortality ratio study to put UI's preliminary data into context.

"We also think this gives us an opportunity to forge new partnerships with groups that can help us accomplish our mission," Mona said. "For example, the chemical manufacturers have made great strides in packaging and formulation over the past decade. This is one more reason to work closely with them in their efforts to develop new technology in products and packaging. Another example could be working with an organization like the American Cancer Society on the smoking issue. This also gives GCSAA the opportunity to continue to strongly encourage and support the Environmental Protection Agency."

EDUCATION NOTES

The educational portion of the March meeting will address computer networking for superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic. Dr. J. Kevin Mathias from the Institute of Applied Agriculture of the University Maryland, will update our membership on InAgOnLine, the pilot computer networking program in use for 1994 by some Mid-Atlantic superintendents. For those using InAgOnLine, this will be an update and a reminder to actively participate in the program. For others this is a look at an excellent tool for information transfer between superintendents and a source of updates on pest activity and related issues.

As we ease into March our schedules fill up quickly and priorities must be set. I suggest top priority should be spending a day or a half-day with your Assistant, Committee Chairman, Golf Professional or General Manager discussing turfgrass or any subject relating to our profession. These people rarely get an opportunity to hear first-hand about the world superintendents operate within. During March you will have two opportunities to spend quality time key people from your organization. They are:

✓ Thursday, March 10—
USGA Regional Conference at Dupont Country Club in Wilmington

✓ Saturday March 12—
MAAGCS and the Maryland State Golf Association will sponsor the Golf Course Superintendent and Club Official Forum at Greenspring Valley Hunt Club in Garrison, Md.

For more information on either of these seminars, call Sean Remington at Chevy Chase Country Club—301-656-6323.



1994 MAAGCS Meeting Schedule

March	Norbeck Country Club	Bruce Zickafoose
April	Belle Haven Country Club	James Meier CGCS
May	Old South Country Club	Keith Hershberger
June	Chantilly National Golf & CC	Tom Knoll
July	<i>University of Maryland Field Days</i>	
August	<i>Annual Picnic at Hobbits Glen</i>	Bill Neus CGCS
September	The Beach Club Golf Links	Jon Machmuller
October	Baltimore Country Club	Doug Petersan
November	Maryland Golf & Country Club	Donn Dietrich

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GCSAA Election Results

The following is a brief summary of the GCSAA election results from the annual meeting in Dallas, Texas on Monday, February 7, 1994. If you have any questions about this information, please feel free to call Nick Vance, Voting Delegate

Position	Name	Results	Ballot	Yes	No
President	Joseph G. Baidy CGCS	Unanimous	1	5229	46
Vice President	Gary T. Grigg CGCS	4137	2	5230	45
	Bruce R. Williams (defeated)	1121	3	3950	1325
Directors - Three (3) positions for two (2) year terms.	1. Bruce R. Williams CGCS (Nominated from floor)	4460	4	4659	616
	2. Paul S. McGinnis CGCS	3750	5	2954	2321*
	3. Scott Woodhead CGCS	3399	6	2485	2790*
	Tommy D. Witt CGCS	2095	7	4357	918
	Charles T. Passios CGCS	985	8	4232	1043
			9	5152	123
			10	4774	501
			11	5207	68
			12	5270	5
			13	5275	0
			14	5122	153
		15	5270	5	

Immediately following the annual meeting Tommy D. Witt was appointed to fill the one-year term vacated by Bruce Williams who was appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

* Defeated

Four MAAGCS Members Win Environmental Steward Award

Four Mid-Atlantic members won Environmental Steward Awards announced at the GCSAA meeting in Dallas. Awards were given in three categories: public, private and resort golf courses. Our regional winners were Bruce Cadenelli, Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Md. (private); and Bill Shirk CGCS, Queenstown Harbor Golf Links, Queenstown Harbor, Md. (public). Two MAAGCS members also won merit awards: Howard Gaskill, Rocky Point Golf Course, Towson, Md.; and Gregg Rosenthal, Little Bennett Golf Club, Clarksburg, Md.

The award program was created to recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses for their work in protecting and/or enhancing their environment. Entries were reviewed by an independent panel of judges selected for their expertise in environmental issues and

turfgrass management.

Sponsoring companies Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products, Rain Bird and newcomer Jacobsen Division of Textron donated \$17,600 to the GCSAA Scholarship & Research in the names of all national and regional winners: \$500 for national winners and \$50

for each regional winner. In addition all three sponsoring companies also donated \$5,000 to GCSAA S&R.

There were over 300 entries for regional and national winners. These MAAGCS members have served us well at the national level and should be congratulated!



COHOON'S CORNER

○ The GCSAA International Conference and Show, recently concluded in Dallas, Texas, by all appearances was a tremendous success. The educational sessions which I attended were all crowded, the trade show had its typical three-ring-circus atmosphere, and—once again—misery had company at the national (Jack Frost) golf championships.

○ The conference experience got off to an ominous start as I sat on the airplane for four hours because an ice storm had closed Dulles Airport. Well, at least we were flying to a warm location. When I got off the plane in Austin, it was snowing, and, not only that, we hit the trifecta. It snowed on each day the tournament was held. The tournament became a test in clothes management: those who packed the most were the winners. Our association had four members who "finished in the money" in their respective flights. Nick "Pappy" Vance, CGCS, finished second net in the Senior I flight, George "Sandy" Renault III, CGCS, finished eleventh net in the second flight, while Bill "The Shark" Shirk, CGCS, was seventh, and Steve "Blade" Cohoon, CGCS, was twelfth in the first flight gross division. All have been released from the hospital and their frostbite is much better now.

○ After the championships, all attention turned to the conference in Dallas. While in Dallas most members stayed in the Loews Anatole, which more closely resembles an enclosed city than a hotel. It was here that the joint hospitality suite was held on Friday night. The attendance was terrific with no less than ten chapters participating in hosting the event and John F. Streeter, CGCS, coordinating the affair.

Many Mid-Atlantic members were present and everyone seemed to enjoy the food, drink, and fellowship.

○ The biggest attention getter in the trade show—besides the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders—was the introduction by both Jacobsen and Ransomes of the first electric riding greensmower. As I understand it, the first production unit won't be available until at least next year. It sounds like a great idea except you won't be able to warm up your hands by the tailpipe in cold weather anymore.

○ During the conference, the GCSAA and the University of Iowa College of Medicine announced the results of the mortality study that was initiated by the GCSAA last year. Please take time to read the article concerning that study in this newsletter. It contains valuable information every superintendent should be aware of.

○ The election process went very smoothly this year in stark contrast to the turmoil that took place last year. Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, was elected president. Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS, R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, and Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, were elected to director for two-year terms, and Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, was appointed for a one-year term. In addition, 13 of the 15 bylaws amendments were ratified. The only ones defeated were bylaw issue #5 which dealt with adding partial membership classes for golf course employees, and Issue #6 which called for allowing club officials to join as non-voting members. Most issues were settled by a large margin and were consistent with the opinion of our delegates.

○ The event was capped off by another banquet gala highlighted by the presenting of the "Old Tom Morris Award" to Byron Nelson, and the musical entertainment provided by crystal Gayle and the Oak Ridge Boys. Mr. Nelson got off the line of the night: after listening to a lengthy and eloquent letter from President Bill Clinton he commented, "If I had known he was going to write such nice things about me, I would have voted for him!"

○ All in all the conference was enlightening and entertaining, and now enough of that nonsense, it's time to get back to work. The season's here again.

1994 Legacy Awards. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Legacy Award Program offers educational aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members through the auspices of the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund, Inc., a charitable and educational trust. Legacy Awards are \$1500 per academic year. the deadline for applications is April 15, 1994. Call Sean Remington for more details.

Our Sympathy

Upon returning from the GCSAA meeting in Texas, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Cliff Case on February 8. For the younger members of the Association, Cliff was instrumental in the forming of the Maryland Turfgrass Council and frequently held meetings in his office. Cliff was a true friend of many of us in the Mid-Atlantic for over 40 years. Many a time Cliff would stop by area clubs late in the day to deliver needed turf products. He always had time to share his humor and good will, as well as his vast knowledge of pesticides. We will all miss him.

—Lou Rudinski

In Remembrance of Clifton Olinger

Clifton Olinger, age 74, was buried at Beulah Veterans Cemetery on January 25. He was superintendent at Cambridge Country Club for more than 20 years. Prior to that, he was superintendent at Caroline Country Club. He also worked with the Shields Brothers during construction and bringing in the Twin Shields Club. While at Cambridge, he also doubled as teaching pro for several years.

On January 21 Clifton Olinger died. I wouldn't call this an obituary. For those who knew him, he would rather be remembered like this: A man of strong, deep feelings for other people. A lover of music, especially that of the big band era. He had definite opinions on many subjects, and frequently expressed them in

close circles.

Proud of being a non-conformist, Clifton laughed about having twice earned a stripe during his four years in service, only to lose them and walk out still a "buck private."

He never really knew how many people loved him. Once he said he had a party, invited all his friends, and both of them came.

Cliff cared for the grass and the soil and was good at it. I remember his saying after ten days of humidity and temperature in the 90s, "I now know why they don't grow bentgrass in Florida."

Cliff was a good player, a fierce competitor, and the "greatest" at playing the mind game. If he had written down all the hints, the tips, and the tricks about the wonderful game of golf, I'm sure

there'd be enough information for another "Harry Penick's Little Red Book."

This is the Cliff we know, the Cliff we loved, and the Cliff we will miss. As as only Cliff could say it, "You can take that to the bank."

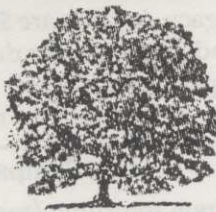
— Ben Stagg

NY Audubon Society Offers Wildlife Factsheets

The Audubon Society of New York State, Inc. offers a comprehensive set of fact sheets on wildlife—including responsible ways to control nuisance pests on the golf course as well as how to attract desirable species.

For more info call GCSAA's government relations program at 913-832-4470 or the Audubon Society of NY at 518-767-9051.

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