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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