

# Turfgrass Matters



September 1994, vol. 46, no. 7

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## Jon Machmuller to host September lunch meeting at the Beach Club in Ocean City

The September meeting will be hosted by Jon M. Machmuller at the Beach Club Golf Links on September 13. This will be our annual two-man best ball tournament and a joint meeting with the Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents, of which Jon is the president.

We hope to boost September meeting attendance by having it at the beach. Although this is a tough time of year with the preparation for over-seeding and renovation projects, it is a wonderful time to visit the beach. Most of us are ready for a day or two away. Tourist traffic is thinning out in the resort area so bring your wife for a long weekend or just for the day.

The Beach Club is fast becoming the rage of Ocean City golf gossip. Cut out of the native hardwoods, it is a 7,020-yard masterpiece. It is a semi-private club that promotes the feeling of a highly exclusive club for the public to enjoy. Designed by Brian Ault of Ault, Clark & Associates and built by Mr. Machmuller the course seems to belong to its environment. Mr. Machmuller completed the 18-hole track in May 1991, just 20 months after the onset of construction. "The most rewarding part of construction is finishing," Jon tells us. "The problem is, I don't think you're ever finished."

Jon is now preparing for the

next eighteen holes of the planned 36-hole facility. forest delineation, engineering and final architectural renderings for permit submission are the first steps toward another

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**The Beach Club is a 7,020-yard masterpiece, a semi-private club that promotes the feeling of a highly exclusive club for the public to enjoy.**

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20 months of hell. The existing 18-hole course is rye grass tees and fairways, fescue rough and bent greens cut to 7/64". The next 18 holes are planned for wall-to-wall bentgrass, providing all the elements needed are in place. Jon seems to be excited about the new course and is doing a large-scale drainage and over seeding project to the existing course. You may see some work going on the day of the meeting.

The Beach Club is proud of the new clubhouse which opened this spring. Jon was the project manager in charge of building the new building and did all the landscape design himself. "The clubhouse took a lot of my and my crew's time to complete, but I am very proud of everyone's efforts."

During the construction of the

first 18 holes, soil samples were taken and did not reveal a pretty picture. A pH level of 3.2 seemed to be the norm and not the exception. Large pockets of pH levels of 2.3 were found throughout. To date Jon said 13 tons of various types of lime have been applied per acre, tilled in with 900 lbs of potassium sulfate, 950 lbs triple super phosphorus and a witches'

*See Machmuller, page 7*

**Lunch/Meeting:** 10:00 a.m. Cost of lunch: \$30. Reservations necessary. Call 301-490-6202.

**Golf:** See Golf Notes, p. 3.

**Directions:** From Western Maryland take Rt. 50 East to Rt. 113 North. Keep to the left and watch for the golf sign. Make a U-turn and head south. Make the first right turn onto Deer Park Road. The club is on the right.

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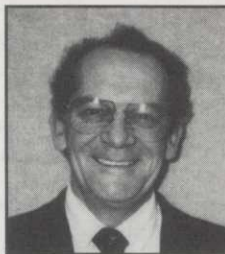
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**Editors:**

Betty C. Ford, 301-384-9666;  
fax: 301-384-4683; Marilyn  
Dorfman, 410-730-5877  
**Advertising:** Steve Cohoon  
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

A sincere **thank-you** to Bill Neus and his staff at Hobbits Glen for hosting the MAAGCS annual picnic.



Those who visited "Waco" witnessed the near-total destruction of the fire Bill experienced in July. Bill, thanks again for a fantastic day! Your staff had the course looking great. Unfortunately, members of my foursome had their minds on crabs and beer.

Gordon Caldwell did a great job organizing the entire affair. Thank you to all who helped Gordy, especially those who did the cooking and supplied the crabs, and to the ladies who brought covered dishes and cleaned up afterward. It was a great picnic because of your efforts.

In the early weeks of September all Superintendents will receive a request for monetary assistance to the MAAGCS Legislative Fund. The MAAGCS must continue its pro-active

approach to environmental legislative issues. As stated in past issues of this newsletter, and at regular monthly meetings, future legislation will affect the industry positively only if we can secure sufficient funds to hire a full-time lobbyist, hire expert testimony when required, and show support to legislators who are willing to sit with the MAAGCS when issues are brought before them. Please discuss these issues with club officials; their course conditions could be affected if you are limited in the products/methods you require to satisfy turf qualities they demand. **Help us so we can help you.**

The September meeting will be at The Beach Club Golf Links. Jon Machmuller promises Eastern Shore hospitality. This will be a lunch meeting. "Casual" is the word of the day. September is a great time for the beach—your wife could catch the last rays of summer or spend a day sight-seeing!. Call Jon if you would like to book a fishing trip either Monday or Wednesday. Great tuna and dolphin 50 miles out! You will forget the pressures of the summer past and return ready to start anew.

*Lou Rudinski, President*



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**EDUCATION NOTES**

**Scholarships Available.** Our association supports the education of future golf course superintendents. If *any member* has a candidate who is currently furthering his college education, we are interested.

Please have candidates ask for the application: Sean Remington, MAAGCS Education Chairman, 6100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; 301-656-6323.

**Applications should be in by October 15, 1994.**

*Sean Remington, Education Chairman*

**GOLF NOTES**

Congratulations to Kirk and Beth Intermill on their victory in the mixed partner tournament at the annual picnic at Hobbits Glen. Looking at the scorecard, Beth carried Kirk on more than one hole. She even had a net 1 on the 17th hole!

Also, a big thank-you goes to Bill "Torch" Neus and his staff for providing us with a great course and wonderful day for our picnic.

September 13 will feature the Two-Man Championship at The Beach Club. This is a best-ball-of-partners event with prizes for both gross and net. The tournament will begin with a 1:00 shotgun (remember this is a lunch meeting) and will cost \$10 per person (\$20/team). Carts will be \$12/person. Reservations **MUST** be made by calling the pro shop at 410-641-4653.

Mark your calendars for October 11. This is the date for the individual Championship which is going to be held at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links.

*Jim McHenry, Golf Chairman*

**COHOON'S CORNER**

○ Mark Yates has been promoted to the position of golf course superintendent at Port America Country Club where he has been the assistant superintendent for the past couple of years.

○ I recently announced that the name of Cedar Crest Country Club was changed to Fairview Country Club. That was incorrect; the new name is actually Ridgeview Country Club. My apologies to Bill Angerer, Don Doxee, and Carol Offenbacher who are all employed there.

○ Tom Tuttle, who left Caves Valley for New England a couple of years ago, is returning to the mid-Atlantic region as a superintendent-to-grow in the new Arthur Hills course—River Downs—located in Carroll County, Md. Welcome back, Tom.

○ David Gerken, a GCSAA scholarship winner for 1992, is relocating to our region and is seeking employment as an assistant superintendent or in an entry-level position at a course in the Washington metropolitan area. Anyone in need of more information should contact him directly at 303-686-7643.

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# When Using Equipment, Think Safety

by Lance Ernst, Turf Equipment and Supply

Whenever people and machines come together, the opportunity for an accident is created. Golf courses, with their many acres of playing area, require people and machines to work together continuously to keep the golf courses in the best possible playing condition.

Unfortunately, the nature of mowing equipment is such that, when accidents *do* happen, they can result in serious injury. Some manufacturers spend great effort to make their equipment as safe to operate as possible. Despite these efforts, hundreds of people are injured each year.

Safety on the golf course must become a state of mind. It requires a respect for the equipment and a recognition of the potential dangers this equipment represents. Every operator must understand that accidents can happen if they don't follow the proper procedures, *all the time*. Manufacturers of quality turf maintenance equipment do everything possible to

make the equipment safe. Safety conscious golf course superintendents develop comprehensive plans for safe operation. But if the operator neglects even a single procedure or practice, accidents can occur.

Safe equipment operations can be thought of as a function of three things:

✓ **Proper maintenance of the equipment.** This, of course, would include the mechanic, but it should include the operator. The mechanic can provide a properly running piece of equipment when it leaves the shop, but if a malfunction occurs out on the course the operator must alert someone to avoid causing injury to himself or others.

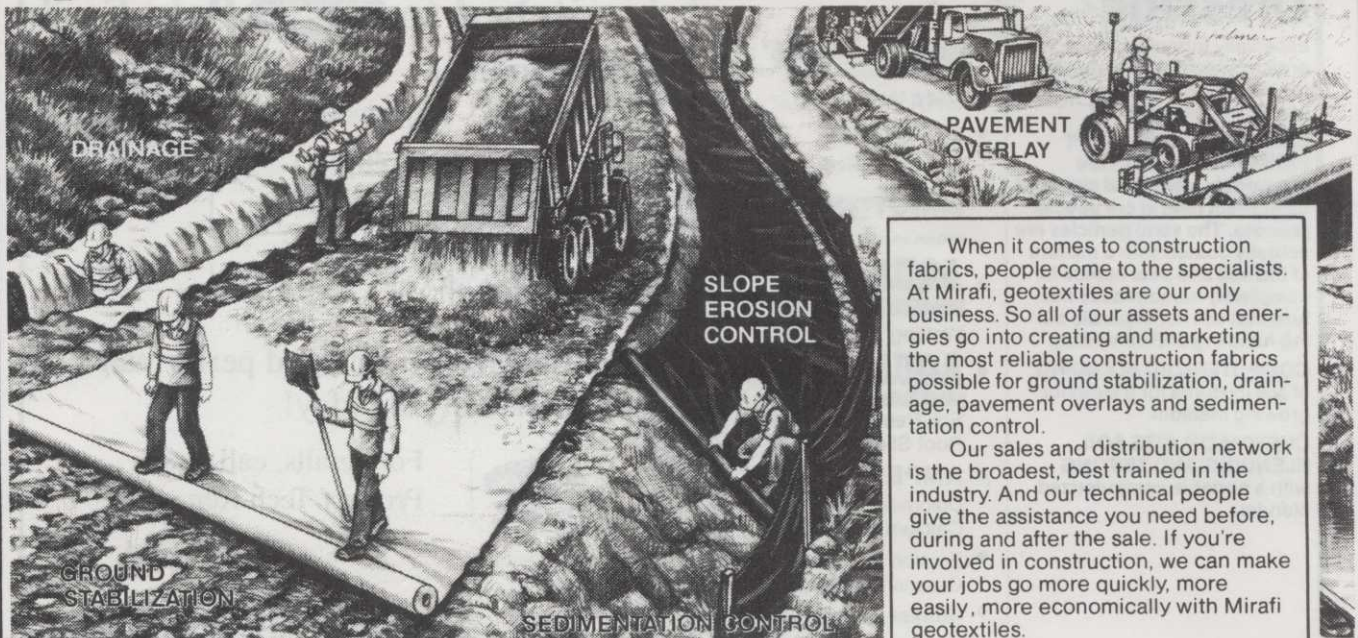
✓ **Proper training for operation of the equipment.** When you hire a new employee, or get a new piece of equipment, be sure to take the time for proper training on the equipment. This includes reading the owners manual and viewing the



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operators' training video. Once the operator has been properly trained, you should insist on safe and orderly operation of the equipment.

✓ **Using the equipment in the proper place—that is the place for which it was designed.** Manufacturers design equipment to perform a specific task or operation. Be sure your operators know the capabilities and limitations of the equipment.

All three factors are interrelated. If one of the above is ignored, the potential for an accident exists. Always follow proper safety practices and procedures. Make safety your most important consideration. Make your golf course a safe place to work and play.

### Get out of that cart!

Research by the New Hampshire Heart Institute has revealed that walking the golf course three times a week will lower total cholesterol, raise the level of high-density, lipo-protein cholesterol—the good kind—in the blood and reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

*Golf Digest*, August 1994



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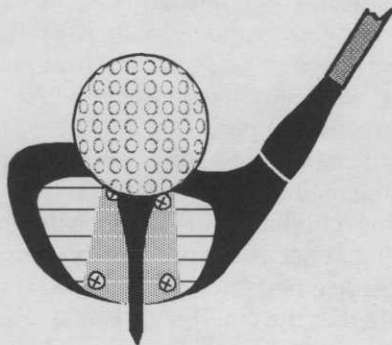


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## Do you have an emergency plan?

*reprinted with permission from TurfNet Monthly*

Golf course managers all have a ticking bomb in their pesticide storage facility—both in a very real sense and a perceived, political sense. It is critical to have a well-planned, rehearsed emergency response plan in effect should there ever be a fire or other emergency that involves your stored pesticides. How you respond to a crisis may well determine the severity, cost, environmental damage, and degree of negative community response. In light of recent bad press (*Wall Street Journal*), it is important to prepare proactively before something happens.

Developed with an eye to any federal, state, and local regulations that may affect you, an emergency response (or "contingency") plan should address the following issues:

- appointment of an emergency coordinator—normally the golf course superintendent—and an alternate for the times when you are off-premises;
- a current listing of emergency response agencies—fire, police, EMS, poison control, hospital

utilities, chemical cleanup and containment specialists, attorney—with phone numbers and contact names;

- an inventory of average in-season and off-season quantities of stored pesticides and fertilizers with descriptions, trade and chemical names, manufacturers' names and addresses, and copies of the pesticide labels. This should be updated regularly with a copy stored off the premises;

- maps showing locations of both pesticide and fertilizer storage facilities, fire extinguishers and protective clothing, access routes, sources of water for fire-fighting—hydrants, irrigation ponds—drainage and runoff control features, and utility shutoffs. The map should have a scale of distance and a directional indicator;

- invite your local department to tour your facility at least annually, so they can use your maps to become familiar with the layout in a daylight, non-panic situation. Emergency response is always more controlled and effective when the response team knows what to look for and where to find it.

- periodic rehearsals. While we may scoff at the memory of grade school fire drills, there is no substitute for rehearsal. We tend, however, to forget, to put them off or to consider them silly. The easiest way to ensure that periodic drills take place is to ask your local fire department to schedule them for you. They won't forget.

While thoroughness is important, be realistic in the development of your response plan. Keep it simple and direct. There is no sense having a pie-in-the-sky plan that has little chance of ever being orchestrated correctly in a panic.

An important element of your contingency plan is dealing with the media. If you think you have political problems with Jane and John Doe down the block complaining about your spraying, wait until you have a pesticide emergency that the media sinks its teeth into. Whether the emergency is real or not, the media can turn it into a catastrophe in a hurry.

During a media interview, be calm, confident, and honest. Help them get the correct facts. Do not speculate so that they won't seek less-informed sources elsewhere. Be brief and to the point, steering away from controversy. Once the pertinent topics have been covered, end the interview. Never say, "No comment."

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**STEVE MAYS - ROB NELSON**

**Machmuller, from page 1**

brew of micro nutrients. "Nutrient levels are all starting to show signs of balancing out now, and pH levels are climbing," Jon tells us.

Jon's roots are found in the Midwest—Nebraska to be exact. His career in turfgrass started when he was 18 as part owner-operator of a chemical lawn care business. In 1986 he sold his shares in the company and entered the world of golf course construction at Eldorado Hills CC, a nine-hole golf course just outside his hometown located on his father's estate. "My father had just passed away and the course was his dream, so I wanted to see it happen. I was hooked after that."

Jon is about to become certified—if he can find six hours to take the test (and a couple of months to study for it). He is an avid fisherman, both offshore and fresh water. Other activities would have to include water skiing, snow skiing and martial arts.

Jon and all his staff are excited about hosting the Mid-Atlantic supers' meeting on September 13 and are looking forward to seeing you at the Beach.

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## John Deere Tournaments Announced

Plans are set for the Eighth Annual John Deere Regional Team Championship Tournaments. The first tournament is set for the Berkshire Country Club in Reading, Pa. on September 30, 1994. The second tournament will be at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club in Baltimore, Md. on October 10, 1994. Each club may choose to participate in only *one* event.

The winning regional team qualifies for the National Championship in Palm Springs, California, November 10-13, 1994. The foursome must consist of the superintendent\*, president, general manager and golf pro. The format is a modified scramble with limits on the team handicaps. Prizes, gift certificates and free use of John Deere Turf products are

among the team prizes.

Deere and Company will donate \$20 to the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund for each team that participates in our regional qualifier. Finch Turf Equipment will donate \$10 per team to the Superintendents Association with the most participants for each tournament.

Each tournament places limits on the number of clubs that can play. Superintendents in our region will be receiving more information.

\*The superintendent must be a member of the National GCSAA in order to advance to the national event, but nonmembership does not prohibit participation in the regional tournaments.

## NEW MEMBERS

The MAAGCS welcomes the following new members:

- Stephanie Novak Rau**—  
Chesapeake Environmental Management
- Russell Moser**—  
Maple Run Golf Course
- James Gosnell**—  
Elkridge Club
- Theodore Huhn**—  
Fisher & Son
- John Denholm**—  
Baltimore Country Club
- Matthew Masamore**—  
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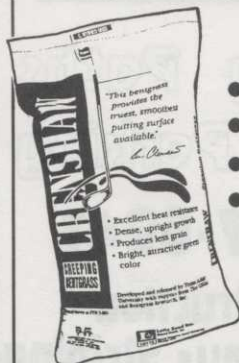
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