

# Turfgrass Matters

**Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents**

## From the President...

Is it Spring already? Well, another winter has come and gone and the '95 golf season is here. I trust all took advantage of the many excellent educational opportunities that were available during the past few months.

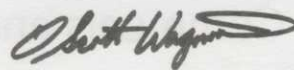
As we approach the '95 season, please remember to use our new address and telephone number when dealing with association business. Bruce Tharp, of The Tharp Group, is now the person responsible for administering the day to day affairs of the association. He brings to us a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, as he also assists in the operation of the Old Dominion GCSA, the Virginia Turfgrass Council, and the Virginias Chapter of the Club Managers Association. Look for a more detailed article on The Tharp Group further in this issue.

Thanks to Sean Remington and his education committee for our February seminar. As in '94, this education day focused on the environment and our role as its

stewards. By holding the session in Annapolis, we were able to attract both delegates and their staff to the event. A good day, indeed!

Since this is my first Presidents message, please let me remind all our members that being part of MAAGCS is much more than simply paying dues. It carries the responsibility of attending meetings, sharing ideas and giving a few hours of your time to make the association operate better for us all. I, along with the entire Board of Directors, need and value your time and talents. In today's world we are all busy, so frankly, that excuse doesn't wash! Collectively, we have much to gain!

With GCSAA holding the conference and show late this year, the first weeks of March will be a busy time for all of us. Please be sure to include our initial meeting, being held on March 14th at Leisure World, in your schedule. I look to see you then, so we can get 1995 off to a great start.



Scott Wagner

## The new guy....

January is one heck of a time to start working with a new superintendents association! They say this is the light time of year? I say ha! Just what is June going to bring? I sure was glad to see the National Conference arrive so I could catch a breath with you all out west.

Already, I've had the opportunity to meet with several members, either by phone or at the Maryland and Virginia Turf Conferences. It certainly is nice to finally place a face with some of the names I know through a databases.

So, who or what is The Tharp Group? It is a group of people involved with association management. Their mission can be summarized in a brief three sentence statement:

- To assist associations by supporting and directing the efforts of their elected and appointed leaders.
- To maintain a role that involves and encourages participation of the members.
- To provide the utmost in an efficient and successful operation.

Having said that, it is understood by myself and the Board, I do not replace any person or board. I assist the board and membership in accomplishing their tasks as the Board directs.

Being the primary contact with the MAAGCS, I look forward to meeting each member at the monthly meetings.

I hope to see you at Leisure World in March.



Bruce W. Tharp

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the President.....	1
The new guy.....	1
Why My Putting Greens Appear Purplish in Winter .....	2
Editor's Comments and Requests .....	2
March Speaker: .....	2
March Meeting .....	3
1995 Scholarship Recipients .....	3
Five Steps to Better Outings .....	4
Dormant Pruning .....	5
D.O.T. Regulations Affect You: .....	6
Golf Notes .....	6
Trust No One.....	7
Meeting Site's for 1995 .....	7
News and Notes of the Region .....	7
Turfgrass '95 .....	8

## Why My Putting Greens Appear Purplish in Winter

Peter H. Demoeden The University of Maryland

The first frosty nights in October bring about some pronounced physiological changes in plants. In bentgrasses, especially lower cut putting greens, leaves may develop a purple or blue-gray color. The discoloration may be uniform, but frequently the various shades of purple, red or blue appear in circular patches. These patches represent clones. The colors are most prevalent on older greens, especially those seeded to Seaside or "Old South German" bents. These seeded varieties were genetically variable and as a result all plants emerging from seed were not true to type. Hence, individual plants would grow and the more aggressive types would dominate to produce a circular patch. These patches are not unlike the circular areas of blighted turf associated with some diseases. The purplish discoloration is most often misdiagnosed as leaf spot by some golf course superintendents. Leaf spot is an uncommon disease of bents in Maryland, but it can cause a red-purplish discoloration in Kentucky bluegrass. The purpling is very prominent in Pennncross greens. Pennncross has three parents and therefore at least three different types of color patches or clones can appear on greens. Presumably, similar color changes will appear in Pennlinks, Southshore, Providence and all of the newer seeded bentgrass varieties as well.

But why do greens turn blue or purple? The cool to cold temperatures trigger the color responses. During mid-to-late October we experience relatively warm days (65 - 75 F), but cool nights (32 to 55 F). The sunny, bright and warm days stimulate plants to produce large amounts of sugars (through photosynthesis) in leaves and leaf sheaths. At night, the sugars must be translocated out of leaves to crowns for storage or use in other physiological processes. When nights are very cool the sugars are not completely moved out of leaves and they accumulate. There are many types of sugars. Glucose is a common plant sugar and sometimes glucose molecules are chemically bound with anthocyanins. Anthocyanins are pigments

and their function in plants is unclear. The word "anthocyanin" is from Greek: anthos = "flower", and kyanos "dark-blue". Anthocyanins provide the red, purple and blue colors in flowers. Anthocyanins accumulate in the foliage of trees during cool and bright weather to provide the spectacular colors in autumn leaves. Hence, bentgrasses experience a similar accumulation of sugar, and therefore anthocyanins, following the first cool or frosty nights of fall. These colors may intensify and persist throughout winter months and slowly disappear in mid-spring after turf begins active growth.

A somewhat similar blackening or purpling of bentgrass leaves also may be elicited by the following: iron applications; low soil phosphorus levels; ammonium sulfate application; fungicides classified as sterol inhibitors (e.g., Banner, Bayleton, Sentinel and Rubigan), some plant growth regulators (especially Cutless and TGR); and arsenic toxicity. These responses are well known and can occur at any time of year.

## Education Notes March 1995

### March Speaker:

Humus, Humate, Humic Acid, Humate Substances and Humates. What the heck is all this stuff? It seems that there are more products on the market each year that contain or claim to have something to do with healthy soil humus and organic matter content. Mr. Chuck Federal, the Director of Research and Development for Earthgreen Products, Inc., will speak to our group about this very interesting and cutting edge topic. He has given his talk the title, 'Current Research in Humus, Humate, Humic Acids and Humic Acid? And yes, there is a difference between Humic Acids and Humic Acid, I've already asked. So, come to our first meeting of the year ready to listen and talk about what a healthy soil is or is not. Maybe you already doing something but aren't quite sure why. Hopefully there will be something for everyone to benefit from.

## Comments and Requests

This year, the MAAGCS newsletter will be undergoing many changes. The editor's goals are not only to increase the size and look, but to upgrade its contents and hopefully better serve the membership as a source of practical and technical information. Some of the new ideas being considered revolve around input from a broad range of members. We will be soliciting material from Assistant Superintendents, students, local and regional sales representatives, equipment managers, as well as Golf Course Superintendents. A feature being considered is initiating a free classified section for superintendents which could include requests from fellow members on a variety of subjects. The emphasis will be to widen the newsletter's appeal and encourage more creativity in its contents and communication between members.

In order to achieve these goals we need participation from all members. Whether it is a full article, a letter to the editor, or just an idea you would like to see included as a regular feature. We need your help! This will be an ongoing upgrade so collect your thoughts over the next few months. The newsletter should be your means to express yourself. Take advantage of this opportunity. Call or fax your ideas to either:

**Bruce Cadenelli**  
Caves Valley Golf Club  
Phone: 410-356-1317  
FAX: 410-356-1367

**Kevin Pryseski**  
Cattail Creek Country Club  
Phone: 410-442-1731  
FAX: 410-442-5666

## March Meeting to be held at Leisure World

The March membership meeting will be held at Leisure World Golf Course, with President Scott Wagner serving as our host. Leisure World is a 5,800 yard course situated in the middle of the Leisure World Community. The yardage of the golf course is no real indication of its difficulty. With only 17 acres of fairways get an idea of how narrow the holes are. This Desmond Muirhead course was opened for play in 1966. The narrow fairways are tough but some relief will come from greens that average 7000 sq. ft.

We all know how strange the weather in March usually is, so if we get a break from mother nature, leave your driver at home and come out for a round at the 'Ishort course'. Cocktails, dinner, and the meeting will be held in the Fireside lounge on Tuesday, March 14, 1995.

Cocktails - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner-6:30 p.m., meeting to follow.

Directions:

From Washington: Washington beltway to route 97 - Georgia Avenue. North on Georgia Avenue to the large globe on the right. *If you get to route 28 you've gone too far.*

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## 1995 Scholarship Recipients!!

We in the Mid-Atlantic are fortunate to have many talented individuals interested in our Profession. The group of applicants for MAAGCS Scholarships this year proved this fact to me. The most difficult thing the Scholarship Committee had to do was limit the number of scholarships distributed. Local Universities are doing an excellent job of promoting what we do to young people as a viable career choice. Also the quality of our Members attracts excellent students, from programs around the Country, that want to learn from them. Many individuals decide to make a career change and the golf course catches their interest. All of these help to create the outstanding pool of Applicants we had this year. Because only seven of fourteen who applied have been awarded scholarships does not discount the others. If money were no object I feel that all would have been recognized.

For those who missed the formal introduction at "Turfgrass 95", following are the MAAGCS Scholarship Recipients for this past year. Also listed are their Sponsor's and University's. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done.

**ROBERT B. ALONZI** sponsored by: **Bruce E. Cadenelli**  
student at: University of Massachusetts

**MICHAEL BARRELL** sponsored by: **Gordon M. Caldwell, C.G.C.S.**  
student at: Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland

**CHRISTOPHER JASON KAUFMAN** sponsored by: **Michael J. Larsen, C.G.C.S.**  
student at: Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland

**CARLOS REYES** sponsored by: **Rhys M. Arthur**  
student at: Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland

**ALFRED A. STEPPICH** sponsored by: **Paul R. Latshaw**  
student at: University of Maryland

**FRANK STERBAK** sponsored by: **John T. Drew**  
student at: Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland

**WAYNE S. WATKINS** sponsored by: **Michael Legere, C.G.C.S.**  
student at: Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland

# Five Steps to Better Outings

by Rhys Arthur, Indian Spring Country Club

**G**olf Outings are a major source of revenue for many courses. Often they are initiated to ward off financial ills, supplement operational expenses, or help generate capital. But, when outings are not executed properly, they can also be a source of major headaches for your Club, your staff, and your course.

Making an Outing run like clockwork is not as hard as you might think. There are several concepts you can incorporate into your management program that can make your outings run easily, and more successful, for everyone.

Here are five steps to better Outings:

**<PLANNING>** As with any venture you engage in, proper planning almost always prevents poor performance. It is critical that you know what will occur on each and every Outing day. Meeting with you Club management early in the year is important in order to select dates for Outings that don't interfere with regular play, or your maintenance practices. Early planning is your opportunity to block out dates for the work that you need to accomplish, before those dates are sold or reserved.

Proper planning should provide you with the time of day you are expected to have the course ready. Knowing the size of the field, types of players, and other obligations that you will have to meet should be clearly spelled out in advance. This allows you to organize your crew, have the necessary equipment ready, maintenance completed, and the course prepared.

By maintaining a good rapport, and insisting on regular meetings with your golf professional and club management, you can develop a plan to easily accomplish what needs to be done.

**<ORGANIZATION>** Organization on the day of the event is second only to proper advanced planning. Whenever you can, meet with the Tournament Chairman before the event. More often than not, these Tournament Chairmen are volunteers, and novices in running large organized events. They often don't have the expertise to pull a large event off, and they need your profes-

sional help to make it a success. Trust me, they will appreciate you for helping them.

Find out in advance what he or she needs to have done on that particular day. Typically, these Outings have corporate sponsors. Find out what will have to be done to handle their signs, and other obligations to those sponsors.

Will there be special events on any of the holes? What is the format for play? What types of players are in the group, and how should the course be set up to get them through the course in reasonable time, and have fun.

Where do the hole-in-one cars go, who will place them on the course, who keeps the keys, and when will they arrive? Will there be volunteers located on the course, and how will they get to their positions before and after the event? Will there be food stations, tents, beverage carts, or the need for extra trash cans? You may think that these things are unimportant, but these are the types of things that always go wrong at the worst possible moment. It pays to consider them and take care of them well in advance.

**<PREPARATION>** Preparing for Outings does not have to be a headache. Usually, if you know in advance exactly what you need to accomplish, you can do it by simply rearranging your regular schedule. Consider these concepts:

**Evening crews:** To avoid that morning panic of trying to get everything done early in the morning, try planning an evening crew prior to the event. Tasks such as mowing fairways, tees, spraying, changing cups can all be done the night before with a modest staff, placing one of your assistants or foreman in charge. You may find that your crew actually enjoys the change in pace, and the opportunity to work in the cooler evenings. The bonus here is not having to complete these tasks with a full field on the course the following day.

**Split Crews:** Schedule your staff in advance, and consider bringing a few members in earlier to hand water, or to get a head start with the greensmowers if it is an early shotgun. Even simple things such as parking your equipment in the proper order the night before can go a long way in making the day of the event go much easier.

**<COMMUNICATION>** Keep the lines of communication open during the event. Per-

haps even giving the organizer of the event one of your spare two-way radios can keep things under control. Cart violations, rowdy groups, injuries, or even approaching storms demand that you keep abreast of what's going on.

Be a Team Player and don't forget to communicate with the Clubhouse during the event. Help them whenever you can by keeping them advised of the pace of the group, so they can organize banquet preparation following golf.

**<FOLLOW-THROUGH>** Be thorough on your follow-through! Plan on having a crew member stay after the event for clean-up. Part of having a successful Outing, is having the course cleaned-up promptly for the regular play that will follow.

Develop a plan for getting hole-in-one cars, volunteers, and the players off the course, especially if there is a possibility of a thunderstorm. Finally, set aside some time to check in with the Tournament Chairman and make sure that everything went well, and as anticipated. After all, running outings is big business. Every business wants repeat customers, and showing your dedication towards running a good golf course operation bodes well for both your club, and the professional image of Golf Course Superintendents.

Really, running successful Outings is truly rewarding when done right. You can easily develop a sense of pride when you help a group raise money for a worthy charity, or simply by showcasing your course to their guests, and potential members for your Club.

Take a little time and enjoy the outing yourself. You work hard to prepare your course for the event, and you will find that you will enjoy these Outings much more if you take a little time and enjoy them yourself. Often you may find a few celebrities, get a few autographs, or even watch one of your crew members eat a dozen hotdogs!

Simply, after a bit of practice, and making well managed Outings your personal goal, you will find that they are actually easy, enjoyable, and they don't have to be a major headache. And when you are armed with a better attitude and outlook about outings, everybody wins.

# Dormant Pruning

John R. Testa, Horticulturist, Caves Valley Golf Club

Late winter and into early spring is the ideal time for dormant pruning of woody ornamentals, but before you grab your tools and attack the nearest tree or shrub there are some basic philosophies, procedures and practices you should consider.

When discussing pruning in a brief article, one must remember there are exceptions to every rule and there is considerably more information available about pruning than I can present in this article. Here are some of my general pruning concepts and techniques.

A combination of knowledge and skills is required to become a successful pruner. An artist's touch plays just as important a role as scientific knowledge of the plant material. Having a good eye for balance and symmetry plus the ability to envision the mature specimen in its future surroundings all contribute to your success as in stone shaping, the final desired shape exists within the original form of the stone you are carving. By removing pieces of that stone you achieve the end result; an aesthetically pleasing, structurally sound work of art.

Work with a goal of excellence and a good attitude, you are now ready for the scientific aspects of pruning.

First is the timing. Most woody ornamentals can be pruned in their dormant season, but remember that pruning promotes growth. Be careful of above normal temperatures and to avoid pruning when it's unusually warm. Pruning below 32 degrees F can also cause problems. Because the wood is frozen, some splitting and cracking may occur. Avoid pruning plants that flower in early spring. These plants flower on old wood and you will be removing this year's flowers. You will not harm these early flowering plants, but you will reduce the quantity of the blooms for this year. Besides late winter being the appropriate time for dormant pruning, it is also a time when little else is happening with other plant material projects.

There are several styles of pruning depending on the desired affect, but here are some basic rules that will apply to any pruning endeavor. First, determine the natural shape of the plant and whether or not you will be trying to maintain its' natural beauty. I will warn you though, trying to alter a plants natural growth habit requires more time and energy than simply trying to en-

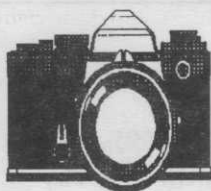
hance its' natural shape. Secondly, establish a plan of action. For example, does the tree need to be limbed up? Are there any major branches that need to be removed? Will you need a ladder, pole pruner, etc? Come prepared and have clear procedure that you will follow

With your tools of choice, began by removing the three "D's"; dead, diseased, and damaged limbs. Next look for any crossing or structurally weak branches and remove these.

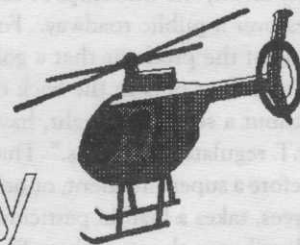
Several things to keep in mind are to always wake quality cuts, take your time and inspect your work by stepping back and moving around the plant as often as possible. Remove large branches one piece at a time, starting at the tip so you remove only as much as is necessary. Radical or severe pruning should be done in stages; one third each year for three years.

Lastly, if you are not sure about removing certain branches, leave them for next year. Don't hurry! Pruning should not be rushed unless personal safety or the health of the plant is at stake.

In conclusion, I hope these basic tips on pruning will increase your confidence and skill level when sculpting your collection of woody ornamentals



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## Did You Know...? D.O.T. Regulations Affect You:

The watch word for pesticide use in these highly regulated times is "SAFETY" safety in handling, safety in storage and safety in transportation. In addition to personal and environmental protection, green industry professionals now must contend with an increasing number of federal laws. Many of these will change the way you handle, store and transport chemicals.

Among the federal laws are those governing the transportation of pesticides. These Title 49 restrictions are embodied in the federal Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Regulations, which are continually changing and expanding to touch every aspect of chemical transportation. Title 49 is not new, but simply part of a regulatory revolution taking place at all levels of the pesticide industry. New pesticide laws do not stop at the manufacturing level. They reach all the way down the distribution channel to you, the end user.

According to David Hibbs, Transportation and Safety Manager for Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, "Title 49, HM - 181 regulations, which are now in effect and are being strictly enforced, place a great deal of responsibility and liability on anyone who ships or carries pesticides over a public roadway. For example, many of the products that a golf course superintendent puts in the back of his truck, without a second thought, have become D.O.T. regulated materials." That means that before a superintendent, or one of his employees, takes a load of pesticides away from a distributor, they must have first completed a mandatory pesticide transportation training program. He must also carry a detailed bill of lading, or manifest, describing the material being transported and appropriate emergency response information to be followed in case there is an accident. He may even have to have a commercial drivers' license and use warning placards, depending on the quantity of pesticides being transported.

Even return shipping a pesticide will require the person return shipping be trained and having completed the manifest before he can return it. The manifest describes the material by it's proper shipping name, haz-

ard class, ID. number, packaging group, quantity, and type of container. It also must be accompanied by a signed certification stating that the shipper has abided by all applicable governmental regulations.

"The D.O.T.'s enforcement actions are increasingly aimed at the shippers. So we strongly advise superintendents who ship or transport hazardous materials to catch up on their training. D.O.T. is putting a lot of emphasis on training right now", explains Hibbs. Hibbs further adds that the penalties for not following the Title 49, HM - 181 regulations include fines up to \$250,000 per incident in civil cases and fines up to \$500,000 and/or five years in criminal cases.

New pesticide transportation rules won't make your job any easier. But with the federal governments' increasingly strict regulations, all green industry professionals would do well to familiarize themselves and their employees with Title 49.

Hazardous Material Transportation Regulations are located in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Subtitle B, Parts 100 - 180

This article was excerpted from "Chipco Tips" from the Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company

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## Golf Notes

**G**olf Schedule to 1995:

- March - Open Play
- April - Points Tournament
- May - Superintendent/Pro
- June - Open Play
- July - 2 man Championship
- August - Mixed tournament
- September - Open Play
- October - Annual Championship
- November - Scramble
- December - Open Play

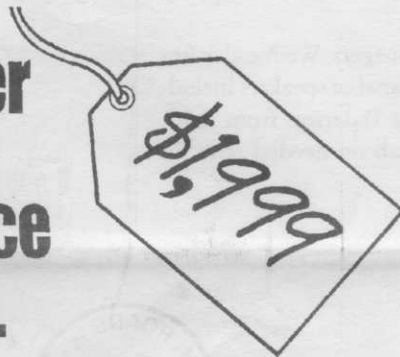
## It's Your Responsibility....."

There have been a lot of changes with the MAAGCS over the past two months. New Officers, new management, a new office location, new phone numbers, and a new database.

With the number of changes that have taken place, someone or something, somewhere as dropped through the cracks. I'd like to think otherwise, but... I've been here before!

Don't be afraid to call the office if you feel something is not correct with your status, advertising, mailing address. If you were on the permanent reservation list for meetings, do not assume you still are! Look at your dues statement closely when it arrives. Is everything correct? Now is the ideal time to make any corrections needed.

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## Meeting Site's for 1995

- March - Leisure World Golf Course, Silver Spring
- April - Fall Road Golf Course, Potomac, MD
- May - Superintendent/PRO Tournament, Surburban Club, Baltimore, MD
- June - Forest Park Golf Course, Baltimore, MD
- July - Springfield Country Club, Springfield, VA
- August - Bretton Woods Golf Club, Potomac, MD
- September - Cripple Creek Country Club, Bethany Beach, DE
- October - Rolling Road Country Club, Baltimore, MD
- November - Chevy Chase Club, Chevy Chase, MD
- December - Turf Valley Hotel & Country Club, Ellicott City, MD

## News and Notes of the Region

**R**ich Valentine, Jr., is the new regional agronomist for LESCO. Rich was previously Golf Course Superintendent at the Foundry in Virginia.

Mark Waltz is the new Superintendent at International Golf and Country Club. Mark left Townson Golf and Country Club last fall.

Doug Bader, former assistant at Towson Golf and Country Club, has assumed the Superintendent's position at the club. Welcome and good luck!

Tom Tuttle has returned the Mid-Atlantic to take over at Rivers Downs, in Carroll County. This high-end public course, presently under construction, is expected to open in June of this year.

Doug Petersan and Baltimore Country Club are currently building a new golf course maintenance complex. Besides adding two new buildings, they are also renovating the old barn and shop building. Construction will last through a good portion of '95.

Caves Valley Golf Club is changing its three hole short course into a full-time practice and teaching facility. Chip MacDonald is the builder. The new facility is scheduled to open in September to accommodate the USGA Mid-Amateur Championship.

Be sure to read the January/February issue of The Green Section Report. The magazine is completely devoted to the results from their environment research program. *A must read!*

## Turfgrass '95

**T**urfgrass 95, sponsored by the Maryland Turfgrass Council, was held at the Baltimore Convention Center on January 9 - 12, 1995. The entire conference focussed on the environment with added emphasis on safety. There was, once again, a session available for the equipment managers where Mr. Mike Rislund from Toro Company helped our mechanics better understand the servicing of today's equipment. Other sessions were also geared specifically to fellow professionals in related turf fields such as the seeding industry, sod growers, sport turf managers, lawn care operators, contractors, etc. A trade show representing all our local commercial supporters was in the exhibit hall so everyone had a chance to see their suppliers.

Monday was one of the most interesting days in that the morning session was designed to make us aware of problems in the Chesapeake Bay and what programs are being implemented to both improve the water quality and the monitoring of the bay's water. The afternoon session then concentrated on the use of tools available to scout and diagnose pest problems in turf. These ranged from simple field testing tools to the use of UNP testing and on-line computer systems. These talks led to more detailed sessions on alternative strategies to controlling specific pests that are encountered here in the Mid-Atlantic area.

For golf course managers, Wednesday finished with a fine panel of speakers including our own Doug Pederson from Baltimore Country Club on needed attitude

adjustments, both on the part of the golfer and the superintendent, and what is in the future. Of particular interest during the afternoon was the talk by Roy Brown on multiple chemical sensitivity. A brief legislative update was provided along with the announcement of the formation of the Maryland's Association of Green Industries who will continue to represent the green industry in Annapolis.

There was a lot of good information available this year. Hopefully, you took advantage of it in preparing yourself and your course for the upcoming season.



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