

Turfgrass Matters

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Maryland Senate Visits Queenstown

Lou Rudinski, Chairman
Government Relations
MAAGCS

On August 29, 1995, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Maryland Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee toured Queenstown Harbor Golf Links. The tour was arranged with the guidance of Maxine Adler, Esq., who is a lobbyist for the Maryland Association of Green Industries. MAAGCS is an active partner in this umbrella group consisting of Lawn Care, Arborists, Sod Growers, Nursery Growers, as well as the Maryland State Golf Association, the Mid-Atlantic Professional Golf Association, and the Greater Washington and Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Queenstown Harbor Golf Links is located in one of the environmentally sensitive Critical Areas of Maryland's tidewater region, and, since its inception, it is one of the few golf courses to have installed a comprehensive monitoring well program. As a result, it is able to provide documentation on the beneficial effects on ground water and surface water that have resulted from its conversion from agriculture to a golf course.

Hosts for the day were: Bill Shirk CGCS, Course Superintendent, Trent Wright, Course Professional, and Lex and Charles Birney, Managing Partners.

The day began with introductions. Bill Shirk talked about the history of the golf links and the hurdles they had to overcome during the seven plus years

of obtaining a permit. Needless to say, when the final approval was issued, groundbreaking began in earnest. Bill described the ground water monitoring well system, the locations as they relate to subsurface water flow, and the findings on nutrient loading. During five years of test data, a distinct downward trend is evident.

Bill led a caravan of course Superintendents, State Golf Association members, and EEA committee members to our first of many stops on the golf course. The agenda included test well sites, Critical Areas and Mitigation sites, as well as a beautiful butterfly garden with our final stop at Bill's environmental weather station.

At each stop, discussions enlightened our Senate guests about the day to day as well as the long-term decisions that confront Bill and the Birneys. Several course Superintendents could relate to IPM and Best Management Practices, as they pertain to their individual courses. Plant Protectant and Sprayer Technology as well as irrigation Delivery Systems created lively topics fielding many questions from legislative members. Chemical application and irrigation perceptions were met head-on. Hopefully, a clearer picture of both will stay fresh in the minds of our guests.

The staff of Queenstown Harbor Golf Links are also very proud of their commitment to the love they share for the environment. Bill discussed working

with various school groups, planting wetland areas, and allowing the use of ponds for state fish stocking programs. He also works in cooperation with the Wildfowl Trust of America and the Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage when planting in wildlife areas, selecting the placement of nest boxes for the different species of birds and the location of bat boxes which helps to control the mosquitos.

Our final stop at the weather station allowed Bill to emphasize on how the use of generated data coupled with close monitoring worked hand in hand with the daily decisions on plant protectant use, weed control, and irrigation practices at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links.

Clarence Blount, EEA Chairman, thanked the entire management team, the MAAGCS, and MAGI for the informative day and looks forward to reviewing legislative proposals having a better understanding of golf course maintenance programs

Quotes—see pg. 6

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President's Message

The MAAGCS lost one of our long respected members when Angelo Cammarota passed away on September 16, 1995. Those of us who have been around for a few years know that Angelo always had the best interest of our profession at heart. You might not have always agreed with "Angie", but you knew he wanted the best for all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Angelo's wife and children. Mike Larsen and Bob Miller have shared some thoughts about Angelo in this Newsletter and they are worth reading.

The Management of the MAAGCS is coming back into focus. After a disappointing association with the Tharp Group, we are getting back on track. We need some help from people who have wanted to advertise in our newsletter or directory. Our records aren't clear on what's what. If you paid for ads or want to place an ad, please contact Chris Ayers at (301) 762-0570 to make arrangements. Thanks in advance for your help.

The summer of 1995 was a year of struggle for many in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. The drought and grey leaf spot were beyond belief, but hopefully October will provide some relief. Come out on October 12th for the Annual Championship at Rolling Road and enjoy a fine day to get away and relax.

Best Wishes,

Scott

Golf Report

October brings our Annual Championship to be held at Rolling Road on Thursday, October 12th. The following is a list of the player of the year point standings as of September 1st:

Paul Brandon	90 pts.
Dave Fairbanks	90 pts.
Jim McHenry	90 pts.
Scott Wagner	90 pts.
Todd Cowing	80 pts.
George Renault	70 pts.
Gregg Rosenthal	70 pts.
Lee Dieter	60 pts.
Kevin Mathias	60 pts.
John Newcomb	60 pts.
Sean Remington	60 pts.
Bill Shirk	60 pts.

Come out in October and enjoy the day!

Remember GCSAA Seminar December 12-13 at Turf Valley. "Golf Greens: History, Theory, Construction & Maintenance."

The 7th Annual Maryland Turfgrass Research Golf Tournament

*University of Maryland Golf Course
October 17, 1995*

Tournament Schedule

12:00 noon -- Lunch
1:00 p.m. -- Shotgun Start
6:00 p.m. -- Cash Bar
(Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union)

7:00 p.m. -- Banquet

***Cancellation Due to Rain Policy:** Tournament will *not* be rescheduled; however, participants will be allowed to have one round of golf at their leisure. Dinner will be held the day of the tournament as scheduled.

Tournament Schedule

Team Score -- Two Man Best Ball
Prize -- MTCGolf Trophy



Sponsored by the Maryland Turf Grass Council

Registration

Fees: Please Check
 Hole Sponsor \$125
 Golf & Banquet \$100/person
 Golf & Banquet \$400/team
 Banquet only \$30/person

All players must indicate their handicap.
Name _____ Handicap _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Mailing address of player or team captain:

Name _____

Street _____

City / State _____

Phone Number (____) _____

Mail to: **Bernie Beavan
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Rt. 3 Box 25K
Leonardtown, MD 20650**

Please make checks payable to the *Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC)*. Proceeds benefit turfgrass research at the University of Maryland. **Registration Deadline: October 9, 1995**

Angelo Cammarota 1915-1995

Michael Larsen
Woodmont Country Club

On September 16, 1995, Angelo Cammarota, a fixture in the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, passed away at the age of 80. Many young superintendents may not have known Angelo, or his tireless work and accomplishments on behalf of our association. Angelo held all the offices in our association and was president of the Mid-Atlantic in 1966 and 1967. He was our voting delegate at the national conference for many years and one of the founding fathers of the Maryland Turfgrass Council. Angelo was a leader at a time when superintendents did not enjoy the salaries or prestige that they do today. Angie was a true proponent and supporter of the profession he dearly loved.

I can recall, as a young superintendent, attending local meetings with Paul O'Leary and Kenny Braun. As we would approach the meeting site, invariably we would hear Angelo's distinctive laugh above the crowd. Paul, Kenny, and I would glance at each other and smile, silently acknowledging Angelo's presence. Angie made everyone feel welcome, even the youngest superintendents.

Over the past 15 years, Angelo and I became very close. We would travel to monthly meetings together, and I would drive along enduring his endless stream of one liners and stories from the old days. Our conversations would span a wide range of subjects, with Angie always finding a way to make us laugh. I appreciated his experience and counsel, but I appreciated his honesty even more. He would tell me when I was right, but also never failed to tell me when I was wrong, sometimes being brutally honest with me. His kind, caring side, however, always came through.

One Sunday not too long ago, while attending church, the priest's sermon centered around his presiding over his own father's funeral the previous week. His father had lived to be 82. The pastor, reflecting upon his father's life, noted that he was an honest, hardworking man who loved his family, had many friends, and was at peace with himself. To live to the age of 82, enjoying good health for the most part, is a wonderful blessing. While death is sad, it is also O.K. His sermon struck a nerve with me.

The last years of Angelo's life may have been some of his happiest. Traveling around with his son, David, calling on different golf courses, visiting with his friends and talking shop. No matter how bad your day was going, it was always good to see Angie. Laughing with Angelo always made things better.

I attended Angelo's funeral in New Jersey and at the end of the service as I said my final goodbye, all the good times we had together raced through my mind. In the finality of the moment, I took comfort in the words I heard several weeks earlier. Angelo, you're gone now, but it's O.K. We're all better persons for having known you.

Angie Cammarota

Bob Miller

The summer of 1959-1960 I met Angie at Green Hill Yacht and Country Club. Since then I have traveled with Angie to many superintendent meetings and turf conferences - both local and national. I cannot think of any other superintendent who was more dedicated to our profession.

Angie had a wonderful memory of people and things that affected the turf industry. He probably knew more people in the turf business than anyone in the country. Always - I mean ALWAYS - Angie was available with helpful information for young and old superintendents that needed help.

Angie was also an excellent worker on committees for the Mid-Atlantic Superintendents and the Maryland Turf Council. He was one of the first users of 24D - MCPP and dicamba years before it became known as Trimec. He was a mixer on the golf course as well as with people and we will miss him.

Our prayers go out to Angie's wife, Thelma, sons David and Nick, daughters Linda and Susan.

Angie - thanks for your help through the years.

Ecological Restoration - Its Success all depends!

by Nancy P. Sadlon - President Sadlon Environmental - Golf Division &
Colleen Sundholm, Associate of Sadlon Environmental

You've made a commitment to be a part of the conservation initiative of the golf industry. Congratulations! You've put up a nest box and had some success, the out of play area behind the 8th hole has been left unmown, and you have chosen to plant 3 native plant species as part of the club's beautification program. You're working with an IPM program from tee to green and you reduced your water use. You've been recognized by the ACSP for your efforts, **but**, the natural area is not looking as good as you had hoped and expected. The native plants are losing a competitive battle with the vines that seem to love their location. You wonder if there isn't more you should do or if you should be implementing specific management strategies for these natural areas. The answer is yes. But the specifics of what you should do all depends.

Leaving areas unmanaged, essentially allows natural succession to occur. It has been for a long time a false perception that the natural succession process is a linear process with results in a predictable aesthetically pleasing environment. Contrary to this belief, there are selective physical and biological factors which change the rate and species composition of succession. These include soils, nutrient availability, light and competition from ornamental and non-native species. It is only with detailed knowledge of the ecology and function of a community (both the existing community and the community desired) can we begin to make decisions on appropriate management. Ecological restoration in the purest sense must be guided to a specific end.

Restoration of native communities does not come easily and unfortunately there is no cook book recipe for success. Maximizing the potential of any site requires a detailed look at the physical characteristics of the site. Some critical decisions must be made regarding the desired community structure that will produce an aesthetically pleasing and habitat rich environment. A strong knowledge of the elements of the ecosystem, its functions and interactions are critical to success. In other words: "LETTING NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE IS NOT ENOUGH!"

The Society For Ecological Restoration defines ecological restoration as "*the process of intentionally altering a site to produce a specified historic ecosystem. The intent of the work is to emulate the natural structure, function, diversity, and dynamics of a defined, indigenous ecological system.*"(1)

The Department of Landscape Architecture at Rutgers University is currently doing research regarding variations in old field succession. This research experiment has evaluated the effects of three resource interventions including 1) soil acidification with elemental sulfur intended to lower nutrient availability, 2) germination site reduction by bark mulching, and 3) lowering light levels with shade cloth structures. Information gathered from this research is valuable to the success of future restoration efforts. As noted in the abstract:

"This project demonstrates that very distinct communities can be established in early succession. Landscape restoration and meadow establishment studies may begin to manipulate starting conditions for plant establishment to enhance the success of management strategies."(2)

There has been much written about the opportunities that exist on golf courses to preserve native habitats for wildlife and plant life preservation. The golf industry has stressed the importance of taking part in such an initiative for its value in reinforcing a positive image of the golf course environment. To truly make a contribution to preservation of native communities, golf courses must be willing to do more than just stop mowing areas of the course and planting a few native species. The golf industry has a tremendous opportunity to make a significant contribution to the knowledge base of restoration ecology by investing some of its resources into the detailed evaluation of native habitats of importance to the site and the region within which it is located, followed by implementation of appropriate management strategies recommended by restoration experts, and lastly the documentation of the success and failure of various management programs aimed at achieving specific restoration goals.

1. "Wetland Restoration in the Mitigation Context" Restoration and Management Notes - Vol. 9, No. 2 Winter 1991.
2. Hartman et al. "Design + Values: Variations in Old Field Succession" Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture Conference Proceedings CELA 1992, Vol. IV.

Approaching Pond Water Quality from a Management Perspective

Jim Morris

August. It's the time of year when ponds and other water features frequently become choked with algae, turn slime-green or black, emit offensive odors, or display similar embarrassing bad habits. It is also the time of year when superintendents are inundated by salesmen and marketing materials proffering various expensive products and equipment that will make all these problems magically disappear. Until next August.

Why does this happen to ponds? The process that is occurring in the affected pond is called *eutrophication*, which basically means that the pond is accumulating significant quantities of nutrients, organic matter and sediments, causing high photosynthetic activity and low transparency. Unpleasant odors associated with this condition are the result of decay of this organic material under anaerobic conditions, which occurs in the pond when all of the available dissolved oxygen is consumed by the biological processes run-amok resulting from eutrophication.

Is your pond eutrophic because of course management practices? Maybe. Maybe not. But it is important to recognize that eutrophication is a natural process, and, while it can certainly be accelerated by human activities, many ponds in the mid-Atlantic region would be eutrophic even if their watersheds were virgin forest. Eutrophication is basically an example of entropy at work, and human activities can either hasten the process or slow it down.

"The greatest bias of pond users, in general, is confusing the symptoms of problems with their causes." This quote from a US Environmental Protection Agency guidance manual succinctly sums up the basic flaw behind most pond management efforts. The various aerators, dyes, and other pond water-quality products and equipment offered to address these problems generally attempt to treat specific symptoms without curing the underlying water-quality problems. Even the recent addition of biological-control products, while promising, is still focused on treating the symptoms.

This is not to say that these products are not effective; they generally are very effective within their design limitations and specific intended application. Nor is this intended to imply that treating a specific symptom is inappropriate pond management, only that this approach is one of many different management tools available for addressing pond water-quality issues. A good pond manager, like a good turf manager, makes informed management decisions using site-specific data, a clear understanding of management goals, and objective information regarding the effectiveness, applicability, and cost of the various management options available. For instance, you would hardly order increased irrigation for an area of turf exhibiting signs of wilt without first consulting site-specific data such as soil moisture and any available history of similar problems in the same area to determine whether the apparent wilt was the result of water stress, or some other problem such as heat stress, disease, or infestation of grubs or other pests.

The analogy to turf management holds true for the actual implementation of a pond management plan as well. Course maintenance staff can collect water-quality data needed for making appropriate pond management decisions, just as they collect the various soil, climate, and pest and disease data needed for making sound turf management decisions. When a problem occurs, the superintendent may need professional advice and assistance to assess the data, determine the cause(s) of the problem, and develop an appropriate and cost-effective remedial plan.

This is the first in a series of articles addressing pond management concepts, methodologies and resources and other water-quality issues.

Jim Morris is Senior Ecologist at Chesapeake Environmental Management, Inc. in Bel Air, Maryland.

Picnic Left Overs

Gordy Caldwell, C.G.C.F.

With it being a tough summer, the picnic had a relatively light turnout, but it didn't seem to hamper the fun of those who did turn up at Bretton Woods for the MAAGCS Annual Family Picnic. I would like to thank the staff at Bretton Woods for getting everything ready for us and a special thanks to Ken Ingram. Egypt Farms did a great job keeping everyone supplied with corn on the cob, thanks Ray and Dave. As always, Ben Stagg was in charge of bringing us the best crabs he could find and I must say everyone enjoyed them. The kids enjoyed swimming and just running around, not to mention the smiles on their faces when Ding-Bat the clown showed up. I would also like to thank Mike Barrett and Dan Hofemeister along with Marsha Caldwell for the help in cooking the food we all enjoyed. Hope to see everyone next year!

Certification Attestors Needed!

I have been asked by the Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors to act as a liaison between the GCSAA and MAAGCS, in coordinating Certification attesting. As I understand it, the GCSAA Board of Directors is striving to provide more consistency in its evaluation procedures. By establishing a core group of attestors we can provide consistent evaluations (not comparisons or quality ratings!) and also offer positive feedback to help any individual whose course is evaluated.

There are at present 28 certified members in the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Ideally, if two to three persons from each geographic region would offer to attest, i.e. Maryland Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, Baltimore, Washington, and Northern Virginia, the distance traveled would be minimal. I wholly support the GCSAA in its efforts to strengthen the concept of Certified Golf Course Superintendent and I believe this process is another step towards this goal.

If you are interested in helping out, please give me a call or let me know at one of the monthly meetings. My phone number is 703-281-1939.

Walter Montross
C.G.C.S.

Meeting Dates

November 14 Chevy Chase

December 12 Turf Valley

News & Notes

Congratulations to Bob Wren and his wife, Amy, on the birth of their son, Trevor Ian, on July 5th!

Steve Raabe, formerly superintendent at Rock Creek Golf Course, is now the assistant superintendent at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links.

Congratulations to Bruce Cadenelli and his staff at Caves Valley Golf Club on a successful USGA Mid-Am. Congratulations also go to Steve Potter, C.G.C.S., and his staff at Woodholme who co-hosted the Mid-Am qualifying rounds.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Angelo Cammarota C.G.C.S. who passed away on September 16. (See articles on page 3).

Welcome New Members

William S. Andison	Class F Aqua-Flo, Inc.
L. Michael Barberry	Class F Barberry Brothers Landscape
Louis Bettencourt	Class B Turf Valley Country Club
E. Gillette Boyce	Class F Mid-Atlantic Equipment Company
John Lee	Class A Landsdowne Golf Club
Anthony Lorenz	Class D Rehoboth Beach Country Club
Neville R. Martin	Class F Marva Resources
Bryan McFerren	Class B Westwood Country Club
Tony Stancill	Class F Stancill Inc.

Quotes from Queenstown Visit Attendees

"The meeting at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links was a real-life education about the challenges of managing and maintaining a top-flight golf operation in an environmentally cost efficient method."

"As an enthusiastic golfer, I clearly had an appreciation for the knowledge and skills required by golf course Superintendents. The tour showed me how advanced the technology for managing the courses has come. I know the experience will help all Legislators when evaluating changes that impact the industry."

Both from Senator Christopher McCabe

"A wonderful opportunity for Legislators to see firsthand what is involved when faced with golf course issues."

Maxine Adler, Esq., Lobbyist MAGI

"I hope there would be continued communication between those involved in development and operation of golf courses and Legislators involved in the decision making process."

Randy Reed, President
Maryland State Golf Association

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