

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

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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