

Irrigation

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stages of the irrigation project, the superintendent often is able to more effectively lobby for the additional funds to provide more coverage, more flexible control, a VFD pump station, or other useful features such as weather stations or sensors and hand-held remote controls. Although most superintendents will take some part in the field staking and project supervision aspect of the project, a professional irrigation consultant has the experience from many projects to recognize problems or contractor mistakes and make proper decisions to resolve difficult issues.

In summary, hiring a professional irrigation consultant seems to benefit all parties involved. Clients that hire professional irrigation consultants do so to protect what is typically the largest single maintenance expense in the life of a golf course. Although these services must be paid for, the benefits usually outweigh the cost of the services. Professional irrigation consultants help their clients obtain the best value for the system with an eye towards minimizing long term maintenance costs and maximizing the expected life of the system. Superintendents benefit from having an impartial design source to help with recommendations and in project staking and oversight. By placing design responsibility in the hands of an irrigation consultant, the distributor loses a portion of its cost associated with the sale and can place more resources into providing the customer better product awareness, training, field service, and often better pricing. The contractor benefits from plans and specifications that completely project scope and detail. In short, projects designed by professional irrigation consultants lead to higher satisfaction for all involved parties, especially the Owner and Superintendent.

STUDENT Chapter News

By Andrea Bakalyar, President

The 1997 spring semester Golf Course Management students at the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture, formed their own chapter of the GCSAA. The chapter was formed by the combined efforts of approximately thirty students, Justin K. Mathias, Golf Course Management advisor and Rhys Arthur, CGCS a member of GCSAA.

The officer elections took place in February and the following students were elected to office: President – Andrea Bakalyar, Vice President – William Stowers, Secretary – Ryan Howard, Treasurer – Thomas Zimmerman, Chapter Liaison – Bryan Bupp, Special Relation Chairman – Erin Stevens and Chapter Representative at the Institute of Applied Agriculture – Kurt Long.

The first semester was spent organizing and developing the chapter that would officially be called The Maryland Student Chapter of the GCSAA. We held three official meetings. Glenn Smickley, CGCS of Robert Trent

Jones spoke to the chapter about hosting a major golf tournament, featuring a slide presentation of the 1996 President' Cup.

The officers met on August 5th and planned the chapter's fall activities. The chapter's largest concern is fundraising. We are making arrangements to have University of Maryland – Turf shirts made for alumni and students. The shirts and hats will be available for sale later in the fall and winter. Look for information in the next Turfgrass Matters.

Other activities this fall will include a Welcome Back picnic for turf students, a Fall Harvest Dinner and Hayride in October, and the chapter members will be attending the MAAGCS meeting on November 11th at Hillendale Country Club. The officer elections will be held at the end of September. Anyone interested in participating in the Maryland Student Chapter activities may feel free to do so, please contact the Institute at (301) 405-4692.

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