

TURFGRASS MATTERS

March/April 1997

Volume 69, Number 1

Spikeless Shoes

By R. Jim Moore, USGA

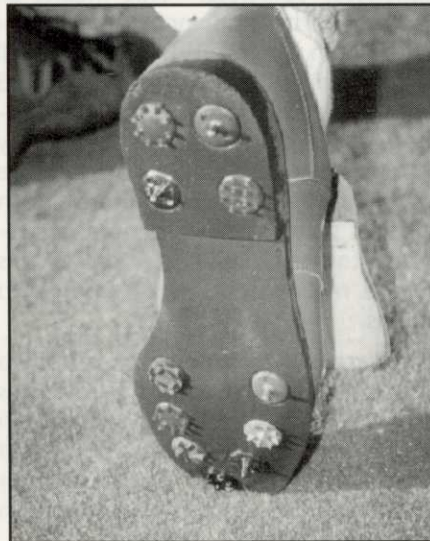
Few issues have stirred as much debate as the issue of spikeless shoes. As an agronomist for the USGA, I am frequently asked my opinion on the issue, and predictably it is met with varying acceptance by both golfers and golf course superintendents. Perhaps the best way to help those who are involved in this debate make a rational decision about the use of spikeless shoes is to evaluate the pros and cons of this issue. Please keep in mind that the following observations are based on my professional opinion and not necessarily the position of the USGA.

Impact on putting quality

With the exception of a few years in the military spent fixing broken B-52's, I have spent most of my life trying to provide better putting quality for golfers. An often quoted proverb in the golf course superintendent's world is "Your greens are your resume." As a result, anything that improves putting quality will be quickly accepted by those whose livelihood depends on the golfer's evaluation of the putting surface. Make no mistake - when a club switches to spikeless shoes they enjoy a tremendous improvement in putting quality. In fact, not in all my career have I seen any new maintenance tool or practice bring about a greater positive change in the way the ball rolls across the green. Predictably, golf course superintendents have almost unanimously accepted and promoted the change to spikeless shoes.

Impact on the health of the grass

Although some work has been done in this area, indicating it is actually better for the health of the turf not to wear spikes, it is doubtful that the degree of improvement justifies eliminating all spikes from greens. As to the argument



that getting rid of the spikes will help eliminate *Poa annua*, there definitely needs to be more research on this issue before such claims can be substantiated. We can expect scientific research to shed light on both of these issues over the coming year.

Impact on newly planted greens

Spikeless shoes have a very positive impact on newly planted greens. Both bermudagrass and bentgrass grow laterally when first planted (they don't call it creeping bentgrass for nothing). Only after the newly planted green is completely covered with mature turf (the maturing process normally takes 8 to 10 growing weeks for bermudagrass and 12 to 14 growing weeks for bentgrass) will it start to assume the upright growth habit that is necessary for good putting quality. Predictably, while the turf is in a spreading mode, it is easily snagged by spiked shoes. Going spikeless while the new greens are maturing will reduce injury to the turf and make for much better putting quality.

There is another very important point to make regarding the tendency of turf to spread laterally.

Bentgrass and bermudagrass will assume this growth habit whenever it needs to cover a worn or thin area, as well as after planting. In other words, if a green is very heavily played to the point that the surface is worn thin, the turf will revert to the lateral and spreading growth habit necessary to achieve complete coverage. For this reason, spikeless shoes have a much greater impact on heavily played greens than on those that receive very little use.

Comfort

Many people have told me how much more comfortable they find spikeless shoes to walk in, compared to spiked shoes. Many members of our staff wear them because of the comfort factor, and because you can wear them into the club house after being on the golf course.

Are spikeless shoes dangerous?

There seems to be little doubt that traction is reduced by eliminating spikes. There have been numerous accounts of players injured when they slipped on a steep grassy slope or wet wooden walkway. Injuries have been recorded from golfers wearing spiked shoes as well. Although it is important

(Continued on page 5)

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President's Message

Dean Graves



Dear Members:

I would like to say "Happy New Year" and update you on three primary items of interest for the start of the 1997 season. The MAAGCS Board of Directors has resolved:

1. All MAAGCS golf events shall be mandatory spikeless. This means all tournaments and open play connected with the monthly meetings will be played with non-metal spiked shoes. The rationale behind this decision is to promote the increased quality of the putting surface and the positive agronomic attributes gained from spikeless play. Given a general movement toward spikeless play, this change makes good sense and good politics.

2. We are making a conscious effort to reduce the time spent in sign-up lines at Chapter meetings. When signing in for golf you may now pay for golf and dinner. This should shorten dinner registration lines, clearing a wider path to the cocktail hors d'oeuvres.

3. The BOD has voted on and approved a new emblem for the Association. It was the joint wisdom of MAAGCS and the GCSAA to have a consistent and nationally recognized emblem ascribed to all chapters. The more repeatedly the golfing public sees a consistent emblem associated with golf and golf course issues, it was felt, the more they will recognize our role in the game of golf and better

appreciate what we do for this great pastime. The approved emblem now appears in Turfgrass Matters and all Association correspondence in place of the old Capitol building MAAGCS logo.

In addition to these matters of great importance, I came across a very interesting opinion poll in the January edition of Golf Digest. The findings came from 500 randomly selected subscribers who participated in the GD survey. The question was "Who is the most important person at your golf course?" The results were:

Course Superintendent	48%
Golf Pro	25%
Club Manager	14%
Beverage-cart or halfway house person	11%
Handicap person	1%
Club Champion	1%

It is nice to be recognized for the responsibility and impact we have on day-to-day enjoyment of golf. Thank you and have a great 1997 with family, friends, and your jobs.

I hope every body takes the time to celebrate Mr. Lee Dieter's retirement from Washington Golf and Country Golf on March eleventh. The BOD has setup an agenda for a great evening for Lee.



Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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c/o Chris Ayers
Lakewood Country Club

TURFGRASS MATTERS

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From the Editor

Did you see it at the National? Did you hear about it from a friend? Yes, it is true, our association's entry in the annual GCSAA newsletter competition, the May/June issue of "Turfgrass Matters," was chosen as first runner-up in its category. "Turfgrass Matters" was considered in Category Two: a newsletter with a budget greater than \$7500, an unpaid editor, and at least 50% of the work performed by superintendents. I am grateful for the recognition, the support, and the enthusiastic response that we have received with "Turfgrass Matters" over this past year. I would be entirely remiss not to take a moment to thank some of the individuals who have contributed to our newsletter's success. My thanks to: Tucker Mostrom, Bruce Cadenelli, Dean Graves, and Lynn Matson for all their help in making "Turfgrass Matters" an award winning newsletter.

Lest I/we get a big head, another year is upon us and we need to continue right where we left off last year. As always, articles will be gladly accepted whenever any of you wishes to submit one. Please consider being a contributor to your association's newsletter. Local flavor and fresh perspectives can only help us meet our goal of providing the MAAGCS members with an informative educational newsletter.

Speaking of fresh perspectives, look for two new regular sections in this and all future editions of "Turfgrass Matters." First, in an effort to keep all MAAGCS members more informed, we will be running a "Bullets from the Board" column highlighting specific Board decisions. We will also be including a "Superintendent Speaks Out" section modeled after the back page of the GCSAA "Showtime" newspaper that is distributed daily at the national convention. Doug Fleming, assistant superintendent at Suburban C.C., will be contacting various members throughout the year to quote their opinions on timely issues.

Lastly, I would like to ask all the class F members who are considering advertising in any of the MAAGCS publications to contact me as soon as possible in order to best take care of their needs. To date, two mailings detailing all the available options in the newsletter, bulletin, and directory have been sent to all class F members. If you have not yet received one, or want to make arrangements for advertising, please call me at (301) 762-0570. Please note, if 1997 is anything like last year, available space will become limited very soon, so hurry!

Chris Ayers
Director of Communications

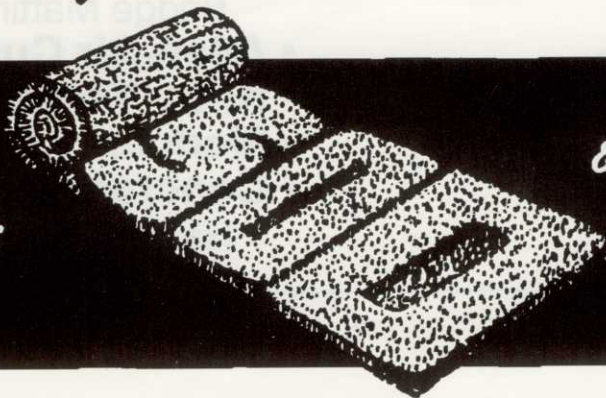


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Spikeless Shoes

Continued from page 1

to reduce injuries as much as possible, I often wonder what would happen if the shoe was on the other foot (pardon the pun). What if spiked shoes had just been introduced? How many injuries would we hear about due to someone slipping on concrete, tile, or marble floors or catching a spike on a step?

Common sense seems to dictate that no shoe is 100% safe. Just as you must use caution when walking with spikes on hard and slick surfaces, you need to use your head when climbing wet, grassy slopes without your spikes. (Note - ryegrass can be particularly slippery when either wet or dry due to the very smooth surface of the leaf.)

Should they be made mandatory?

Golfers (like most people) hate to be forced to do anything. (Just look where they drive their carts if you need additional proof.) This is particularly true when it comes to our personal habits, such as how we wear our hair or what kinds of clothes we wear.

Nevertheless, we occasionally adhere to certain standards for reasons of practicality. This is particularly true in sports where special gear is needed to play the game. My personal opinion is that in most cases mandatory, long-term compliance is a bad idea. However, a mandatory trial period may be necessary to ensure that golfers (at a particular course) give spikeless a try. After a fair trial period, most will find they really do not need spikes to enjoy the game. They will also find there are many good alternatives to spikes that not only provide sufficient traction, but also make walking easier and more comfortable overall. Once the trial period is over, it is likely that the number of golfers making spike marks on the greens will have been reduced dramatically.

Will the loss of traction hurt your game?

The most honest and obvious answer is that it depends on your game. I personally have not played in spikes for more than ten years (I like the teaching shoes available from a number of manufacturers) and do not miss them. I will admit that occasionally I slip on the tee when trying to really bust one. However, in my case the convenience

of not having to mess with an extra pair of shoes outweighs the problem of a rare, minor loss of traction on the tee. For golfers as a whole, I expect they would find that smooth, spike-free greens would have a such a positive impact on their game that the drawback of less traction would be far outweighed.

Spikeless shoes are probably not for everyone. The touring pros may feel that any loss of traction is just too great a risk to take financially (although they may have the most to gain from smooth, spike-free greens). Based on some of the swings I have observed when traveling the country on behalf of the USGA, there are some amateur players who need spikes just to stay rooted to the earth!

The bottom line is that as more players find going spikeless is acceptable, the better the greens will putt. All golfers should give spikeless a fair try. I am convinced that the vast majority will find they enjoy the game just as much without spikes. I am certain we all will enjoy the improvement in the greens.

Jim Moore is the Green Section Director of the USGA Mid-Continent Region

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Three of MAAGCS Old Guard Retire

Ben Stagg

This winter, MAAGCS loses three of its longtime superintendents from its active ranks. Bob Miller, CGCS; Lee Dieter, CGCS; and Ben Stagg celebrated their mutual retirement with those in attendance at the 1996 MAAGCS Annual Membership Meeting in December. I have been asked to reminisce a little about Ben. Although I can only begin to describe what Ben's professionalism and friendship have meant to me and other superintendents for the past twenty-plus years, allow me to touch upon some of the highlights of Ben's career as a superintendent.

Ben started his turf career under the watchful eye of George Cumm in 1969, at Ocean City Yacht and Country Club. In the fall of 1969, he decided to get his feet a little wetter by accepting the superintendent position at Nassawango Country Club, a new course under construction. Ben was responsible for the installation of the irrigation system, the grow-in stage, and the management of Nassawango's golf course for five years. In the fall of 1974, Ben accepted the position of superintendent at Hog Neck, another new course in Easton, Maryland. He started at Hog Neck during its construction, was responsible for the grow-in phase, and has been managing the course until his retirement in January, 1997.

All the while managing golf courses for the past 25 years, Ben has also contributed much of his time back to the industry and the profession. Ben has been a member of GCSAA and MAAGCS for 26 years. He served on the MAAGCS Board of Directors for eight years and held the offices of Secretary, Vice President, and President. Ben is currently, and has been for the past five years, the chairman of GCSAA's Annual Prayer Breakfast. I am fortunate to be a charter member with him of the ESAGCS

Lee Dieter, CGCS

March 2, 1961, Washington Golf & Country Club hired Lee C. Dieter as golf course superintendent. To try to list everything Lee has done or been involved in would fill a book, but I will try to fill a few of the divots Lee has left behind.

The Early Years

Lee's interest in turf and horticulture began as he worked in his Dad's landscaping business in Erie, PA. When he finished high school he worked in a grocery store and found that was not what he wanted to do. Lee and his dad decided to enlarge the landscape business, so Lee enrolled in the horti-



Lee Dieter, Benn Stagg and Bob Miller at MAAGCS 1996 Annual meeting

culture program at Penn State. He was influenced by Dr. Burton Musser, who believed that the only good turf was grown on a golf course, so Lee joined the new turf program. He received a GCSAA scholarship in 1958 and graduated with the first turf class in 1959.

Lee's first assistant position was at the Kahkwa Club in Erie, a Donald Ross design. His next position was with Date Canovan at South Wales G&CC in Warrenton, VA as assistant golf course superintendent. Shortly after coming to Virginia Lee married Rita, also from Erie, who has been his strongest supporter for all these years.

Bob Miller, CGCS

Who among us served as a pro and a superintendent simultaneously? Who has been the Superintendent at Suburban Club for thirty-four continuous years? Who has earned the respect of all who have worked with him for his expertise and dedication in his profession? Bob Miller, that's who!

This year Bob will be retiring from his position as Golf Course Superintendent and long-time employee from The Suburban Club of Baltimore County in Pikesville, Maryland. But don't think that Bob will be sitting back in his easy chair as a full-time retiree. This well known and highly respected member of the Mid-Atlantic

Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be directing his bountiful energies toward new endeavors and challenges.

Bob Miller has a work ethic that is boundless and an ability to master many jobs simultaneously. For example, did you know that from 1959 to 1963, he was both the golf pro and golf course superintendent at the Talbot Country Club on the Eastern shore of Maryland? To this day, it is tough to find anyone who can beat him at a round of golf. But if by chance you do play golf with Bob, you will also come away with the unique experience of

being a better golfer as well as learning a lot about the status of the condition of the golf course. As everyone knows, reading a green properly allows one to achieve that much desired low score. Looking at a golf course from the standpoint of a professional golfer has always given Bob an extra advantage.

When Bob started at Suburban in 1963, there were only 4,500 golf courses in this country, and his total annual maintenance budget was \$30,000 annually. Compare those figures with the fact that one new golf course is opening up every day here in America, and it is estimated that there are more than 15,000 golf courses today. Most modern golf courses can

Continued on page 7

Continued on page 7

Continued on page 7

Benn Staff (continued from page 6)
 (Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents), which was started in 1976. Ben also served as President of the Eastern Shore Association. Ben has served four years on the Maryland Turfgrass Council, in addition to being its President as well. Another responsibility Ben took care of (a responsibility dear to many of our hearts) was arranging for the crabs for MAAGCS' Annual Picnics—the running total is probably on the order of 200 bushels.

Throughout Ben's career, he has never been afraid to share ideas or thoughts on Turf. Many techniques were developed by Ben through trial and error, and he would always be willing to share the successes or failures, the why's and the why-not's. Ben would always be willing to just sit down and talk Turf. In the early years of the ESAGCS, our monthly meetings consisted mostly of just that: superintendents sitting down, drinking a cold one, and talking Turf. Times have changed for a lot of us over the last 25 years, but I am sure that Ben will continue to be truly professional in his new endeavors and will always be a friend to us in the turf profession! MAAGCS and I would like to wish the very best to Ben and his wife, Hilda.

Lee Dieter (continued from page 6)

Washington Golf

Washington Golf & Country Club had the first tee-to-green cart path system in the area. The irrigation system has been replaced twice, all of the bunkers have been totally rebuilt, all the tees have been renovated at least once—and some even twice—and half of the greens have been rebuilt. The fairways have been re-grassed to different varieties including bluegrass, bermudagrass, and ryegrass. Lee feels that he and George Thompson were instrumental in promoting the acceptance of ryegrass in this area, even though they were told by Dr. Jack Hall that the ryegrass would not persist. Lee has probably planted thousands of trees and shrubs and still knows the botanical name for each one.

Association Involvement

Lee has served on many committees for the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association including being newsletter editor and serving as President in 1973 and again in 1987. He is Past President of the Greater Washington Golf Course Superinten-

dents Association and the Virginia Turf Council where he also served as Director of the Virginia Turf Foundation. Lee has received several distinguished service awards from the Virginia Turfgrass Council. He has also served on several GCSAA committees and is presently on the historical committee with such notables as Dr. Joe Duich and Dr. Watson of TORO. Lee is an avid collector and has over 3,000 collectable and out-of-print books related to golfing or turf as well as numerous golf clubs, trophies, and works of art.

Family

Through all of this Lee and Rita have raised four boys: Mike, Fred, Chris and Mark and have three grandchildren. They are both very active in their church and their community. They even find time to play golf, which Rita has come to enjoy a lot.

Lee

After 36 Summers in Northern Virginia, 35 club Presidents, 6 General Managers, 4 Golf Professionals, 16 Greens Chairmen, and only Heavens-knows-how-many committee meetings, Lee has more than earned the title: CGCS - RETIRED.

Bob Miller (continued from page 6)

spend upwards of \$30,000 just in redoing one green complex. Over these 34 years, Bob has maintained a high degree of professionalism in a business that is known for its challenges both with regards to the business side of golf course care AND golf course member relations.

Dedication is only a word unless one is talking about Bob Miller. Every

day—all year long, year end and year out, one could find Bob at Suburban—planning short and long term golf course maintenance. Over these many years Bob has worked with numerous greens committees as they jointly plotted the direction that has maintained the Suburban Club to hold its position as a top-notch golf course. He has earned the club's consistent respect and gratitude. Since the club was established in 1901, Bob is only the fourth superintendent to serve Suburban—a tribute to his knowledge and professional ability.

At the same time Bob always has time for fellow members of our profession. Many times a telephone call from another superintendent would end with his famous expression, "Come on over, we'll go get a slice of pizza and talk about it."

Over the years, Bob has also maintained his interest in many other areas of activities. Many of you know that he owns B&G Tennis Supply Co. which serves the mid-Atlantic region. With complete assurance, one can truly say that Bob will be directing his attention to ventures and adventures as he leaves his position as superintendent of Suburban.

Bob Miller is a top-notch golf course professional superintendent, and we all can aspire to equal his consistent dedication and expertise. The mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and his many hundreds of friends and well-wishers know that his future activities will be as rewarding and meaningful as has been these last 34 years.



Superintendents Speak Out

After returning from the GCSAA International Conference and Show in Las Vegas what would you consider the most important aspect or helpful bit of information that you will be able to place into your daily work as a professional superintendent?

Steve Potter, CGCS
 Woodholme C.C.

"The innovative superintendent sessions were full of small tidbits of information that are extremely useful in everyday problem solving as well as future planning"

Jim McHenry
 Caroline C.C.

"It gives you flexibility, establishing a

network of friends that are a great source of information when you need assistance"

Don Dietrich, CGCS
 Maryland Golf & C.C.

"The availability of expertise in equipment, chemical or irrigation in a close proximity allows me to get the facts and questions answered that might have otherwise have taken me weeks to find out"

Bob Wren
 Fawnlake C.C.

"Going to the national has always set a benchmark for me as the start of the season and sets the tone for the year."

News & Notes

New Members

Shaun Barry	W.A. Cleary Corp.	Class F
William Carrick	Yahnundasis GC	Class G
Chad Clouis	Clustered Spires GC	Class B
Myers Coggin	Mid Atlantic Equip.	Class F
Michael Fisher	Fisher & Sons	Class F
Gilbert Fowler, JR.	Patuxent Greens	Class A
David Horton	Bretton Woods RC	Class C
Michael Huey	Cattail Creek CC	Class C
Christopher Jacobs	Montgomery Irrigation	Class F
Robert Katula	Links Diagnostics	Class F
Bill Kozlouski	Baltimore Municipal Golf	Class C
Lee Kozsey	ISK BioSciences	Class F
Erik Larsson	Bay Hills Golf Club	Class C
Roger "Skip" Lynch, Jr.	ProSeed Turf Supply	Class F
Jean Scott	Zeneca	Class F

Congratulations

Ed Brown, of Rehobeth Beach CC, and his wife, Maureen, on the January 16th birth of their daughter, Jordan Ashley.

Brian Zickafoose, of Westwinds CC, and his wife, Sarah, on the February 19th birth of their son, Stephen Brian. Reroutings

Bruce Cadenelli, formerly at Caves Valley GC, now at The Metedeconk National GC, in Jackson, NJ

Tom Tuttle, formerly at River Downs GC, now at Trenton CC, in Trenton, NJ

Stephen Lutz, formerly of Cattail Creek CC, now at Waverly Woods GC, in Ellicott City, MD

Get Well Wishes

Lou Rudinski, of Eisenhower GC, is recovering from an unexpected heart surgery on January 18th.

Donna Miller, wife of Bob Miller, CGCS, of the Suburban Club, is recovering from surgery on February 24th.

Condolences

To the family and friends of Allan MacCurrach, former Superintendent at the Chevy Chase Club and Turf

Agronomist for the TPC, who passed away on January 14th at the age of 57. Donations on Allan's behalf can be made to the Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Foundation for Agronomy Turf Students, 1009 Ruth Avenue, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250.

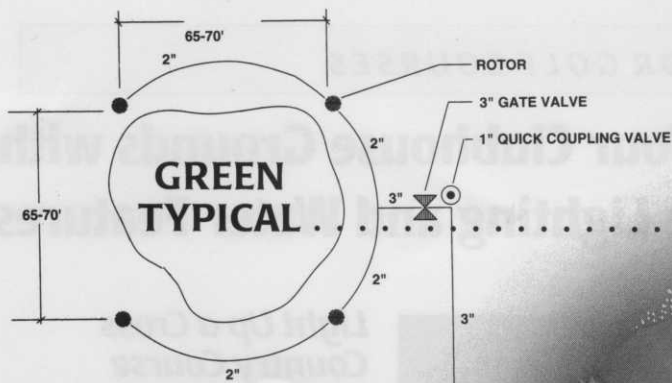
To the family and friends of Joseph "Bert" Yingling, Past President and life member of MAAGCS, former Superintendent at the Beaver Creek Country Club and owner of Yingling's Golf Center, who passed away on December 22nd at the age of 79.

To Lynn Matson, of Turf Equipment & Supply, and his family, on the loss of his father, Melbourn Matson, who passed away on December 17th.

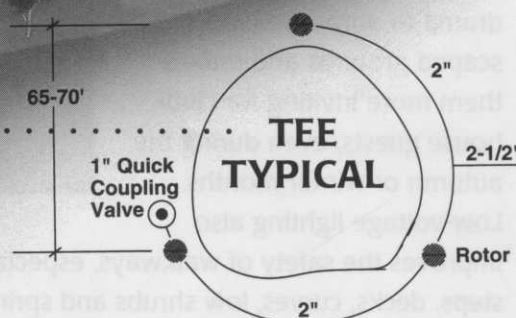
Special Recognition

To Glenn Smickley, CGCS, of Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, in Gainseville, VA, for bringing National Environmental Steward Award honors for a Private Course home from Las Vegas for his very proactive and public conservationist efforts at RTJ.

To Tim Sage, superintendent of The Cove Creek Club in Stevensville, MD, for his club's donation of more than 500 golf balls to the Southern Nevada Junior Golf Association in conjunction with the GCSAA's effort to leave behind a lasting positive impact on regional junior golf from the National Show & Conference in Las Vegas.



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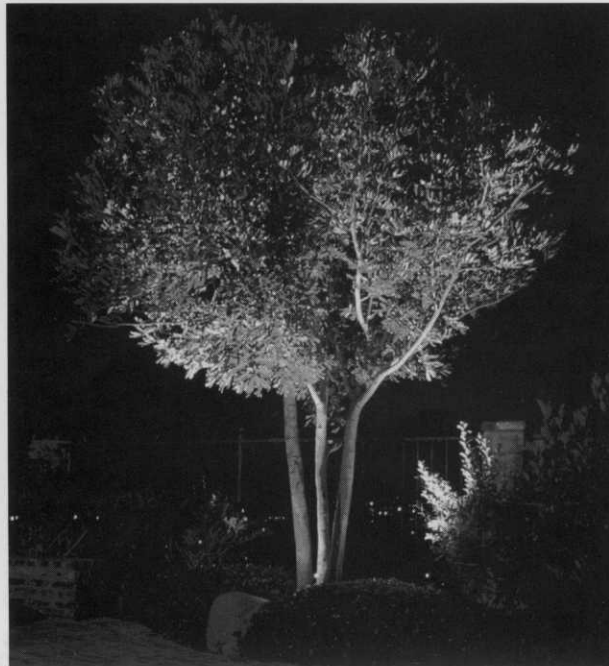
Landscape Lighting

Many golf courses have discovered that low-voltage landscape lighting adds beauty and security to clubhouse areas at night. Especially since it has become more affordable than old-fashioned 120-volt installations.

Nighttime lighting brings new drama to attractive landscaped grounds and makes them more inviting for clubhouse guests, even during the autumn or winter months.

Low-voltage lighting also improves the safety of walkways, especially around steps, decks, curves, low shrubs and sprinkler risers. And it helps to deter vandalism or burglary on the grounds at night.

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Light Up a Cross Country Course

If your course is used for cross country skiing during the winter months, landscape lighting will help bring in more guests. A Century Rain Aid lighting specialist can show you how to create a "winter wonderland" by lighting a trail area for night-time cross country ski use.

Golf Course Fountains and Streams

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MAAGCS Golf Notes



Greetings, and welcome to another golf season in the Mid-Atlantic. Hopefully, Mother Nature will be a lot more cooperative with our golf schedule this year than she was in 1996.

I would like to begin by introducing the MAAGCS Golf Committee for 1997, and thanking them in advance for their help this season. Paul Masimore, CGCS, Tim Sage and Ken Ingram, CGCS, don't know how hard they are going to have to work this year!

For the past three years, the Golf Committee has been expertly guided by Jim McHenry. Jim was so good at what he did that nobody will easily fill his spikes. Thanks, Jim, for your diligence and guidance—hopefully the we will not spend too long on the low end of the learning curve.

Last fall, the Board of Directors approved a spikeless shoe policy for upcoming MAAGCS golf events. Please be advised that all golf events for 1997 (And likely thereafter) will be spikeless!

In an attempt to reduce the long line for dinner reservations, the Board of Directors has adopted a policy for those playing golf to pay for their dinner reservation when they pay for golf. Upon paying for dinner with your golf registration, you will receive the normal two-part receipt, half of which will be collected at dinner. Thanks to the generosity of Washington Golf and Country Club, and its Head Professional, Jeff Jankowski, we will not be able to implement this policy for the March meeting. Both green fees and cart fees have been waived.

This year's golf schedule has us playing some of the best golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic area. Don't forget to hang on to the annual meeting & golf calendar when it becomes finalized. With some cooperation from the weather and with your participation this promises to be a great golf season.

At this year's National Tournament held February 5th-7th, in Las Vegas, 22 MAAGCS members competed. Despite some brisk temperatures and 35mph winds, MAAGCS posted another good showing. Special congratulations to Scott Wagner, who won his flight for the third consecutive year. This year's winners were:

Scott Wagner	1st Gross	2nd flight
Bill Shirk, CGCS	2nd Gross	3rd flight
Dave Horton	2nd Gross	Affiliate flight
Jim McHenry	2nd Net	3rd flight
Michael Evans	3rd Net	6th flight
Tony Shore	4th Net	Affiliate flight
George Renault, CGCS /		
Sean Remington	1st Net - tie	Four-Ball

Division #2		
Nick Vance, CGCS /		
Jim McHenry	9th Net - tie	Four-Ball

Division #1		
Tim McMahon /		
Mike Sullivan	9th Net - tie	Four-Ball

Division #3		
Tim McMahon	Long Drive	Badlands Golf Club

In the Chapter Team competition, MAAGCS #1, comprised of Scott Wagner, Bill Shirk, CGCS, Jim McHenry,

(Continued on page 10)

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Golf Notes

continued from page 9

and Geoff Blind, finished a very notable 9th out of 106 teams in the gross division.

If you have never played in the National, you don't know what you're missing. With the sponsorship of the Toro Company over the past three years, this has become a first-class event. Toro announced at this year's tournament that it has committed to another three years. Nice golf courses, MAAGCS camaraderie and the chance to build friendships with our peers from around the world are just a few of the benefits of playing in the GCSAA National Tournament. Sometimes the weather leaves a bit to be desired, but we're all used to that. A heartfelt thanks to GCSAA Tournament Director George Renault, CGCS, and his committee including Nick Vance, CGCS, for a job well done. Next year's collection of courses in Anaheim promises another great tournament.

In closing, I look forward to serving as Golf Committee Chairman. I actively invite your comments, suggestions, and criticisms as our Golf Committee tries to uphold past standards of excellence. Finally, look for details on the four-man scramble at Fawn Lake in the April bulletin.

1997 Eastern Shore Association of GCS Meeting Schedule

March 25	Rehoboth Beach CC
April 22	Queenstown Harbor Golf Links
May 27	Maple Dale CC
June 24	Wild Quail CC
July 22	Talbot CC
August 26	Hog Neck GC
September	Fishing Trip
October 28	Kings Creek CC
November 25	Rum Point GC



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Each Member on this List Needs to Call MAAGCS Only to Cancel his Standing RSVP for each Monthly Meeting:

(No-Shows who Fail to Decline a Standing R.S.V.P. will be Billed for the Meeting/Dinner Fee)

Chris Ayers
 Ryland Chapman
 Steve Cohoon
 Lee Dieter
 Lance Ernst
 Mike Evans
 Jeffrey Facto
 David Fairbanks
 Mike Gilmore
 Dean Graves

Ken Ingram
 Sam Kessel
 Paul Krout
 Erik McDonald
 John McDonald, II
 John McDonald, Sr.
 Jim McHenry
 Paul Masimore
 Jeff Miskin
 Walter Montross
 R. Tucker Mostrom
 David Nehila
 Bill Neus
 John Newcomb
 Steve Potter
 Sean Remington

Tom Ritter
 David Rudinski
 Lou Rudinski
 Rich Schneider
 Bill Shirk
 Jeff Vance
 Nick Vance
 Jim Wachter
 Scott Wagner
 Jeff Wahl
 Ed Walker
 Tom Walsh

To Add or Delete your name from this list call:

Mike Legere, CGCS
 @ (301) 695-4764

Attention: CGCS's

Walter Montross, CGCS, the Mid-Atlantic Association's Certification Attestor would like to recruit additional CGCS's to aid in the certification attesting process in their local areas.

Please call Walter @ (703) 281-1939 if you would like to be designated as an attestor for your local sector.

(CGCS Attestors receive 0.5 Recertification CEU's for each certification that they perform)

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, April 8th
 11:00 LUNCH MEETING

Presentation by
 Stan Zontek, USGA

Lunch Follows Meeting
 1:00 pm Shotgun Start
 Four-Man Scramble

March Superintendent Profile

Jim Weaver

What is a dream-come-true and yet a most daunting prospect? Consider the opportunity to take the reins of the oldest golf course maintenance department in the Washington, DC area. Consider also following in the

footsteps of one of the area's most creative, durable, experienced and politically active superintendents. Who would have the right mix of education, experience, luck and down-right moxie to take over Washington

Golf & CC in the wake of Lee Dieter? That individual would bear a striking resemblance to Jim Weaver.

Jim is a 1990 alumnus of the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture with a degree in Turf Science/Golf Course Management.. His background reads like a roadmap of notable golf establishments in the Metro area. Jim spent five years at Woodmont Country Club under Mike Larson, CGCS. He then moved up to assistant superintendent under Rhys Arthur at Indian Springs CC. Two and a half years more as assistant at Montgomery Country Club led him up to his most current assistant's post: over three years as Glenn Smickley, CGCS's assistant at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainseville, VA. Anyone who has toured RTJ (Just try getting a tee time!) quickly see why it took a job like head superintendent at Washington Golf to lure him away.

Jim is looking, as are many of us, to follow in his bosses' footsteps to become a Certified Superintendent. While his immediate goal is to continue the fine conditions at Washington Golf and add his own vision to the layout, Jim would like to host a major tournament in the future. A PGA event would suit him fine, and he looks forward to the challenge if it presents itself.

Golf course maintenance is a passion and a way of life for Jim Weaver. However, when he is not doing the things that we all do for a living, Jim likes to slip away to some open water that doesn't have Titleists splashing into it, throw out a line, and reel in the odd fish that passes by. He has yet to worry about parents-in-law, gymboree, school lunches, and day-care, but if his past is any indication, Jim Weaver will be around making his mark on the golf course industry in the Mid- Atlantic Area for the foreseeable future.

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Bullets from the Boardroom

MAAGCS Secretary, Nick Vance, CGCS

In an attempt to keep the members of the MAAGCS informed throughout the year the Board of Directors has decided to publish this column in our newsletter regularly to give you a concise summary of the business that is being conducted at our monthly board meetings.

At our first meeting the BOD unanimously agreed to authorize Membership Director Gregg Rosenthal, CGCS to purchase name tags with the new MAAGCS logo for all members. When they are finished we will distribute as many as possible at our first couple monthly meetings and we will mail the rest to the membership.

Again this year the BOD has agreed to help finance MAGI. This association has been very instrumental in helping the green industry with pending state legislation and they have been our eyes and our voice in Annapolis. MAGI has kept us informed as to the status of all bills being discussed that are related to turf and have lobbied for us on those bills when needed. We have three members of the MAAGCS BOD represented on their board.

Recently the GCSAA has established the concept of students forming affiliated chapters of the

GCSAA. In response to this request the MAAGCS BOD has agreed to help in any way we can and we have asked Rhys Arthur to be our liaison to the student association. Rhys has agreed to do so and at our last meeting he advised us that on February 19 the association elected the following members to their board of directors: President: Andrea Bakalyer, Vice President: Bill Stowers, Secretary: Ryan Howard, Treasurer: Tom Zimmerman, Chapter Liaison: Bryan Bupp, Ag Council Representative: Mike Perry, and Turfgrass Advisor: Dr. Kevin Mathias. The GCSAA strongly maintains the philosophy that the Student Chapter must be initiated and run by the students. We, the Affiliated Chapter must only commit and establish a "mentoring relationship," helping the students achieve their own goals.

To help the BOD better serve our membership we have unanimously agreed to hire an Executive Secretary to help with the daily duties of our association. Our BOD will continue to have total control of our association, but an executive secretary will help us to achieve our goals in a more timely manner.

We will keep you informed as to the status of this venture as we go through the process.



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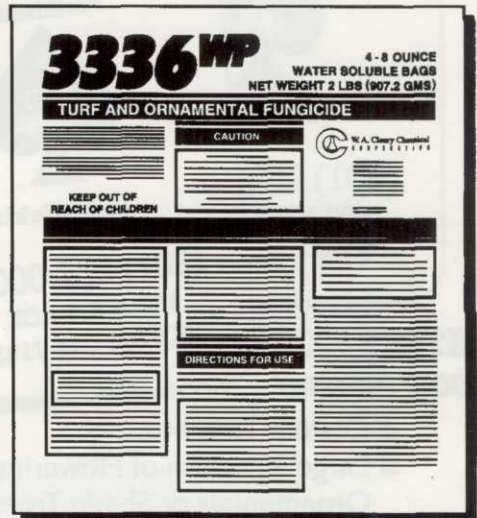
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(Continued on page 16)

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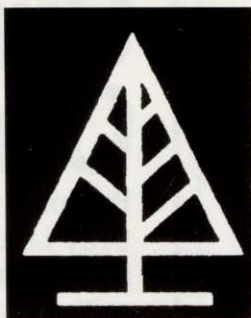
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