

TURFGRASS MATTERS

May/June 1997

Volume 69, Number 2

Green Speed: The Truth and Consequences of Fast Greens GCSAA National Update—May 1996



Years ago, there was a man named Edward Stimpson who loved golf and craved to create more fairness in the game. To further his passion, he invented a device intended to ensure that all the greens on a course were of relatively equal speed. The idea was to give superintendents (then, greenkeepers) a way to compare the speed of the 4th green with the 13th and take steps to equalize them. This was, no doubt, a sound and noble idea. But sometimes bad things happen to good ideas.

Today, his simple tool, the Stimpmeter, is often misused to compare the speed of greens from course to course and unfortunately, to establish a benchmark of putting difficulty. Golfers are sometimes heard to say, "Hey, Hickory Hills was 'stimping' 13 last week." This essentially means that the greens were as fast as the linoleum on most kitchen floors.

From a purely competitive standpoint, that's OK. However, this quest for fast greens has serious consequences in terms of cost, environmental quality and the

long-term health of the green. In short, speed can kill. Here's why:

A healthy, vigorous green can be maintained at a very short cutting height (as low as 1/8-inch) for short periods of time without serious consequences if it's been prepared properly and weather conditions are acceptable. Courses hosting tournaments often take months (and spend significant extra money) to bring greens up to an ultrafast speed for PGA Tour players. For example, the greens at Augusta National or Oakmont may "stimp" up to 14 when properly prepared and dry.

However, fast greens are extremely fragile. If you compared them with human beings, it would be fair to say that their immune systems can be very weak. They become susceptible to diseases and pests, and therefore may require more chemical treatments. Weather can also quickly destroy the health of an ultrafast green. High temperatures and lack of moisture in the air are deadly to greens that are maintained at very short cutting heights for any length of time.

The risks of maintaining fast greens — even with the best pro-

fessional management by superintendents — were apparent in the summer of 1995 when golf courses across the eastern United States lost greens during an extended period of drought and high temperatures. Many of the world's best-known courses suffered serious damage and were essentially unplayable for the last half of the year. Many of these had to be reseeded or completely rebuilt at a cost that was high in terms of budget, playability and reputation. The solution to the dilemma of fast greens is twofold. First, the golf industry is sponsoring and promoting research and development of new grasses that are more tolerant of fast speeds under adverse conditions.

(Continued on page 4)

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President's Message

Dean Graves



What a wonderful spring! It was a little dry & a little cool but a whole lot better than the alternative. I can not remember a windier spring that what we just had. With the mild winter and complementary spring I trust all of our courses are going into the summer being very healthy. Who knows what kind of summer this will be—so good luck!

During the last few years my club has become very active with the Audubon Sanctuary Program. As a spin-off from the program, there have been acres of "naturalized" areas established with fescues and wildflowers. This spring they look beautiful!!! The staff has received more complements and accolades regarding these areas—especially the wildflowers.

These changes do need to be advertised and promoted to the golfers especially if they are added to a completely mowed golf course. I did have one golfer ask me when I was going to mow the "weeds" along the fifteenth tee. I asked her to wait a month and then if she still wanted them mowed I would support her suggestion. A month later that area

was a 1/4 acre of beautiful wildflowers.

A prolonged discussion was given during our last BOD meeting. The topic was, "Is the Board of Directors in touch with the members of the association?" How do we on the Board best keep in touch with and anticipate the needs of the membership? I hope all of you feel that any and all suggestions are welcomed and are listened to. If any of you have any suggestions please call anybody on the board.

We do feel that all of our respective jobs take much of our time especially during the summer. The BOD hopes to hire an Executive Secretary before the end of this year. We are presently interviewing five very promising applicants for this position and hope to select the finalist by July.

Have a great season. Do not forget your family or friends during your busiest time of the year.

Respectfully,
Dean M. Graves, President



Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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For Newsletter Questions or
Comments Contact:

TURFGRASS MATTERS

c/o Chris Ayers
Lakewood Country Club
13901 Glen Mill Road

TURFGRASS MATTERS Committee

Chris Ayers
Editor

R. Tucker Mostrom
Kevin Pryseski
Doug Fleming

From the Editor

by Chris Ayers, Director of Communication

I am sure many of you noticed that our last edition of Turfgrass Matters was larger than normal. We simply had an abundance of materials that just-had-to-go into the first edition and an overwhelming number of advertisements submitted by our valued commercial members. I am extremely pleased by the response from these members of our association. Without their advertising support, we certainly could not continue to produce the quality newsletter that all of you have come to expect. With that in mind, I am sure that many of you did not notice the change in Turfgrass Matters' masthead. At the behest of Lee Dieter, CGCS-Retired, we have

amended the volume number to date back to MAAGCS' inception in 1928.

The initial offerings from our two new columns, "Superintendents Speak Out" and "Bullets from the Boardroom" were well received and will continue throughout the remainder of the year. Special thanks to Doug Fleming and Nick Vance, CGCS for launching these two features.

As always, we are looking for a few good articles to include in the newsletter. Too often we must rely on outside articles to make our newsletter educational. Please consider contributing an article to help keep our publication "local."

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Green Speed

Continued from page 1

Organizations such as the USGA and GCSAA are investing millions of dollars in this effort.

On the other side, golfers should understand and accept the limitations of these living systems we call greens. Golfers should also heed the advice of superintendents who manage, nurture and protect these ecosystems. And finally, many golfers must change their attitudes about the competitive aspect of green speeds. They should, in the footsteps of Mr. Stimpson, strive for fairness, not fastness.

For more information, contact GCSAA at
1421 Research Park Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049
Tel. (800) 472-7878
E-mail: infobox@gcsaa.org

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents takes this opportunity to thank its 1996 donors to the MAAGCS scholarship/ education/ research fund.

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Regional Green Seminar Recap

By Chris Ayers

What would you say to a one-day seminar jointly sponsored by the United States Golf Association, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Maryland State Golf Association? Especially, what would you think of three featured members of the USGA staff, three respected university professors, a Past President of MAAGCS, an excellent crabcake lunch, and a cocktail reception to finish the day? A total of 245 superintendents, assistant superintendents, golf professionals, general managers, club officials, state golf officials, and members of the media who took advantage of this exceptional educational opportunity and attended the annual Regional Green Seminar at Woodholme Country Club on March 20.

James Farrell and Stanley Zontek of the USGA, Dean Graves of MAAGCS, and Bobby Abbo of the MSGA—the respective organizers and hosts for the event—did a fabulous job of pairing well known speakers with timely topics. Due to the number of non-superintendent attendees, this seminar differed from many that we usually attend during the winter months. This was not a “preacher speaking to the choir” seminar. Many of the talks were geared toward novices and useful information was disseminated in a manner in which many in the audience with little or no turf background could find useful. Hopefully, there are many more informed decision-makers at our clubs these days as a result of this seminar.

To touch on just some of the highlights:

James Farrell, Manager Northeast Region USGA Regional Affairs

Electronic communications via E-mail and the Internet can be :

- An efficient communication tool

- A valuable resource for information and help
- Relatively inexpensive (assuming you have a computer and modem)

Kieth Happ, Agronomist Mid-Atlantic Region USGA Green Section

Bunker Management

- There is no such thing as an improperly placed bunker (Donald Ross)
- They should be refereed to as “bunkers” not “traps” and are considered hazards
- Bunker rakes are to be placed “down and out”
- Maintenance and definition of boundary are extremely important
- Each individual course must decide the color and type of sand appropriate for its facility

Stanley Zontek, Director Mid-Atlantic Region USGA Green Section

Achieving a Proper Balance Using Trees

- The game of golf is played on grass (the part you see) and trees hinder the proper development of roots (the part you do not see) that are essential for healthy turf
- Trees have a place on the golf course, but location, number, and variety must be considered
- Who put that tree there anyway ?
- Thunder & Lightning can occur at anytime

Dr. Karl Danneberger, Asst. Professor Dept. of Agronomy Ohio State University

Rolling Greens & Alternative Spikes

- Rolling increases your green speeds, but depending upon the time of year and the amount of growth and or

thatch, it may be short lived

- There is very little difference between types of rollers and the corresponding increase in speed
- Alternative spikes do not cause unseen long-lasting depressions or dimples unless the green is extremely wet/soft

Dr. Bruce Clark, Associate Professor Plant Pathology Rutgers University, Cook College

The Very Latest in Summer Patch Control

- Acidifying fertilizers, like ammonium sulphate, reduce the incidence of summer patch
- DMI fungicides and a new class which includes Heritage work best when applied preventatively to areas where summer patch has been a problem in the past

Dr. Peter Dernoeden, Professor Dept. Of Agronomy University of Maryland

The Very Latest on Diseases of Bentgrass and Perennial Ryegrass Fairways

- Grey leaf spot is relatively new to our area and here to stay and can now be lumped in with Brown Patch and Pythium as problem diseases in ryegrass fairways - THANKS PETE
- Grey leaf spot could possibly extend the spray season until the first frost
- Bentgrass fairways are susceptible to many of the same diseases prevalent in ryegrass fairways, but not nearly as severe.
- Dollar spot is the most common disease in Bentgrass fairways.
- Fine leaf fescues, especially hard fescue, will have an increasing role in answering the question of what type of grass should we be using in our roughs

(Continued on page 6)

Stephen Potter, CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent Woodholme Country Club

Bentgrass Conversion Strategies at Woodholme

- Impetus - gray leaf spot & under-standing membership
- The Process : new contours, Round-up, aeration (2x), slit seeding (various varieties and rates), drop seeding, dragging, and patience
- Higher rate—5#/M as opposed to 2#/M—significantly better - germination, density, and Poa prevention

Stanley Zontek, Director Mid-Atlantic Region USGA Green Section

Understanding the Turfgrass Options

- There is not one single grass that does not have a list of pros and cons
- All have either disease, playability, or establishment concerns
- Research being done to improve turf varieties and their adaptability
- Each course must determine its needs and budget in order to best select a grass type

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)

Position Statement Regarding the Use of Alternative Footwear Options to Metal Spikes.

The Golf Course Association of America (GCSAA) recognizes there is considerable information establishing the benefits of alternatives to metal spikes. It is GCSAA's position that facilities should consider requiring the use of these alternatives. GCSAA recognizes that many factors affect the decision to mandate alternatives to metal spikes. These factors may include any or all of the following:

- Design of the golf course
- Perceptions of golfers
- Quality expectations of golfers
- Region of the country
- Turfgrass species and varieties used on the golf course
- Climate
- Level of ability of golfers
- Amount of foot traffic on the golf course
- Maintenance levels and budgets
- Liability or legal issues

While it is the responsibility of each golf course to determine what policy is best

for their facility, GCSAA is committed to facilitating the development of these policies through the accumulation and dissemination of information. As a result, it is in the best interest of facilities to consult with the golf course superintendent before making a decision. GCSAA will serve as a comprehensive source of information in the following areas:

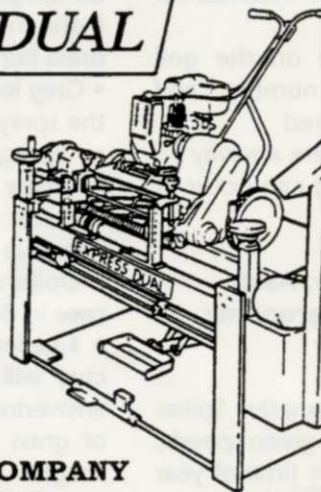
- Agronomic questions
- Financial impacts
- Legal questions
- Golf course aesthetics
- Golfers' perceptions
- Anecdotal information
- Impacts on playability

Where valid information exists in these areas, GCSAA will collect and make it available through its various resources to its members and the industry. Where information does not exist in a particular area, GCSAA will identify and encourage research to obtain this information.

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News & Notes

New Members

Mark Berkholder	Sparrows Point CC	Class C
Bryan Bupp	Rattlewood GC	Student
Peter Comis	Bayer Corp.	Class F
Thomas Drescher	Security Ford	Class F
Craig Farish	Hidden Creek CC	Class C
Merrill J. Frank	Columbia CC	Class A
Cheryl Gaultney	Egypt Farms, Inc.	Class F
Kevin D. Gesse	Regal Chemical	Class F
Steve Glossinger	Caves Valley GC	Class A
John Kotoski, CGCS	Suburban Club	Class A
Jeffrey Lindaw	R. E. Wright Environmental	Class F
Daniel P. Murphy	Locust Hill Links	Class G
Andrew Ninnemann	Marlton GC	Class C
Patrick O'Leary	Washington Golf & CC	Class C
Richard Pais	Richard C. Pais, Inc.	Class F
Robert Roazi	Koonz Suply	Class F
Steven C. Sweiderk	Fairfax National GC	Class A
Charles Trunnell III	Penderbrook GC	Class C
Richard Wakefield	International Town & CC	Class B
James Weaver	Washington Golf & CC	Class B

Congratulations

Ryland Chapman of Fairway Hills GC and his wife, Lisa, on the birth of their baby boy, Ryland O. Chapman V (Rock), on June 1st.

Andy Sheehan, CGCS of Kenwood Golf & CC and his wife, Ann, on the birth of their daughter, Layne, on March 19th.

Stephanie Novak Hau, of Chesapeake Environmental and her husband, Joe, and the birth of their son, Jackson Robert on April 14th.

Tom Wojcik, of Finch Turf Equipment, Inc. on his appointment to Turf Division Manager at Finch. He will split his time between the Westminster, MD and North Wales, PA offices.

John Kotoski, CGCS, of the Suburban Club, on his certification through the GCSAA Environmental Management Program on the environmental impact and management of underground storage tanks.

Reroutings

Brian Blake is now at Needwood GC

Doug Fleming is now at Hillendale CC.

Ted Gregory is now at Goose Creek Golf Course

David Nehila is now at the Country Club of Maryland

Charley Ulevich is now at Hayfields Golf Club

Condolences

To the family and friends of Tom Mascaro on May 6th, at the age of 81. Tom held many patents and earned several very distinguished awards from the USGA and GCSAA. Donations may be sent in his name to the Golf Course Superintendents Foundation's Histor

To the family, friends and colleagues of Stan Zontek, Sr., who passed away on February 17th. Stan passed a legacy of life-time dedication to the turf industry on to his son, Stan, a USGA Green Section Agronomist in this region.

Acknowledgements and Apology

The March / April issue was published with brief biographies of Lee Dieter, CGCS, Ben Stagg, and Bob Miller, CGCS, without acknowledging the authors of those pieces: Sam Kessel, Bill Shirk, CGCS, and Doug Fleming, respectively.

MAAGCS Golf Notes

Michael Evans, Golf Director

Our 1997 golf season got off to a good start with 42 players for the March meeting at Washington Golf and Country Club. Although originally advertised as "open play" day, because of the nice turnout, we ran a low net and gross, and a high gross—in honor of our man of the day: Lee Dieter. There were also two closest-to-the-pin contests. The day's winners (beside the golf course) were:

Low gross:	Corey Haney	82	Bristow Manor
Low net:	Bob Wren	73	Fawn Lake
High gross:	Lee Dieter	A lot!	Washington Golf and C.C. (Retired)

Closest to pin #9:	Scott Johnson	Virginia Oaks
Closest to pin #14:	Tim Sage	Cove Creek

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to Jim Weaver and his staff for a wonderful job! I'm sure Lee sleeps well at night knowing that what he has nurtured for the past 36 years is in such excellent hands. Thanks also to Head Golf Professional, Jeff Jankowski, and his staff for their efforts. As always, our thanks to Washington Golf and Country Club for their generous hospitality.

Speaking of hospitality, how about the southern charm and warm welcome served up by Bob Wren and everyone associated with Fawn Lake! Bordering some of the Civil War's most famous battlefields and a 300-acre lake, Fawn Lake is truly a spectacular site. The format for our April tournament was a four-man scramble. We had 79 players enjoy the beautiful day. The winners were.

1st place: 58
Barry Graham
Tom Sawyer
Wayne Brissey
Tom Knoll

Hidden Valley
Chantilly National
Twin Lakes
Chantilly National

2nd place: 61
John Newcomb
Walter Montross
Dean Graves
Lynn Matson

South River
Westwood
Bethesda
TESCO

3rd place: 64
Perry Greene
Ron Hawkins
Bill Apple
Steve Potter

River Downs
TESCO
Growth Enhancer
Woodholme

4th place: 65
Bob Katula
Tom Clark
Jeff Wahl
Tom Tellier

Links Diagnostics
Ault, Clark and Associates
Falls Road
Chesapeake Leasing

Closest to the pin:
#4 Tim Sage
#8 John Newcomb
#12 Tom Mynaugh
#13 Corey Haney

Cove Creek
South River
Walden
Bristow Manor

Long drive: Corey Haney Bristow Manor

Congratulations to all the winners and kudos again to Bob Wren and his staff for a great day of golf. Thanks also to Paul Masimore, CGCS, Tim Sage, and Ken Ingram, CGCS, for their assistance in running and scoring the tournament. Thanks to our long drive sponsor (Kimberthy Turf) and closest-to-the-pin sponsors (G.L. Cornell Co., Egypt Farms, LESCO, and Ace Tree) for their continued support of MAAGCS. Through the hard work of the MAAGCS Finance Director, Mike Legere, CGCS, almost all of the golf tournament sponsors have been filled for 1997.

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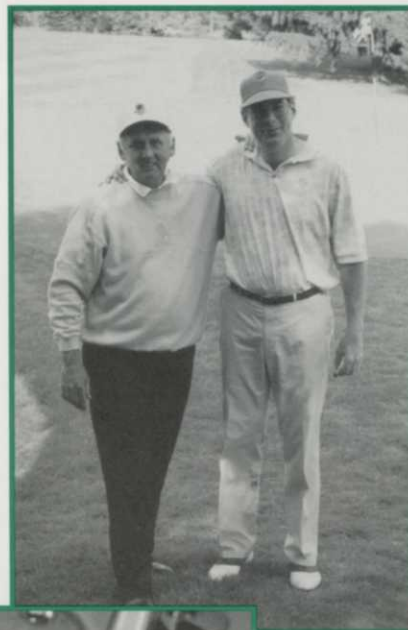
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1997 winners Chevy Chase Club Golf Pro with partner Superintendent Sean Remington.



Low Gross Winners Glenn Smickley, CGCS and Cary Sciorro of RTJ International.

MAAGCS would like to acknowledge Sharon Verchick and Terra International for thier 2nd Annual sponsorship of Superintendent-Pro Tournament photographs.

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developed not only to facilitate absorption by the leaves and roots, but to increase mobility of the calcium within the plant as well.

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APPLICATIONS:

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OBSERVATIONS:

QUELANT™-Ca is environmentally safe and non-phytotoxic. It is tank mix compatible with normally used agrochemical products. Applied together, QUELANT™-Ca improves the efficiency of these treatments by increasing their absorption and translocation within the plant.

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS:

Nitrogen (N).....	5%
Calcium (Ca).....	8%
Boron (B).....	0.2%
Free Amino Acids (Total).....	4.5%
Natural Amino Acids (Total).....	6.1%
Organic Matter.....	6.8%

QUELANT™-Ca is an economical and environmentally sound approach to correct calcium deficiency and improve turfgrass quality.

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QUELANT™-Ca

Calcium & Amino Acids

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QUELANT™ -Ca is an economical and environmentally sound approach to correct calcium deficiency and improve turfgrass quality.

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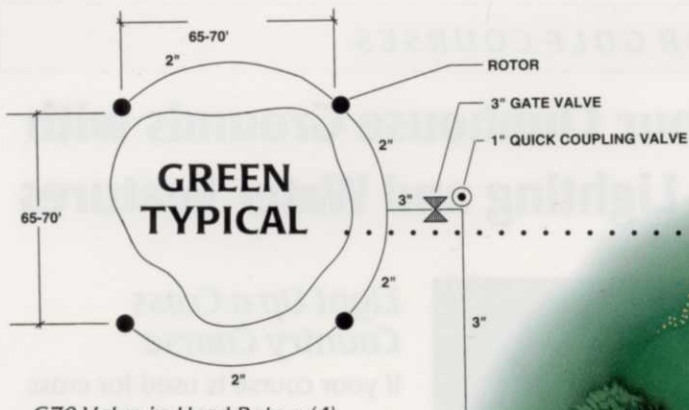


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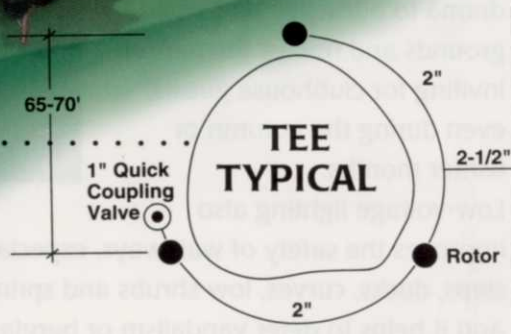
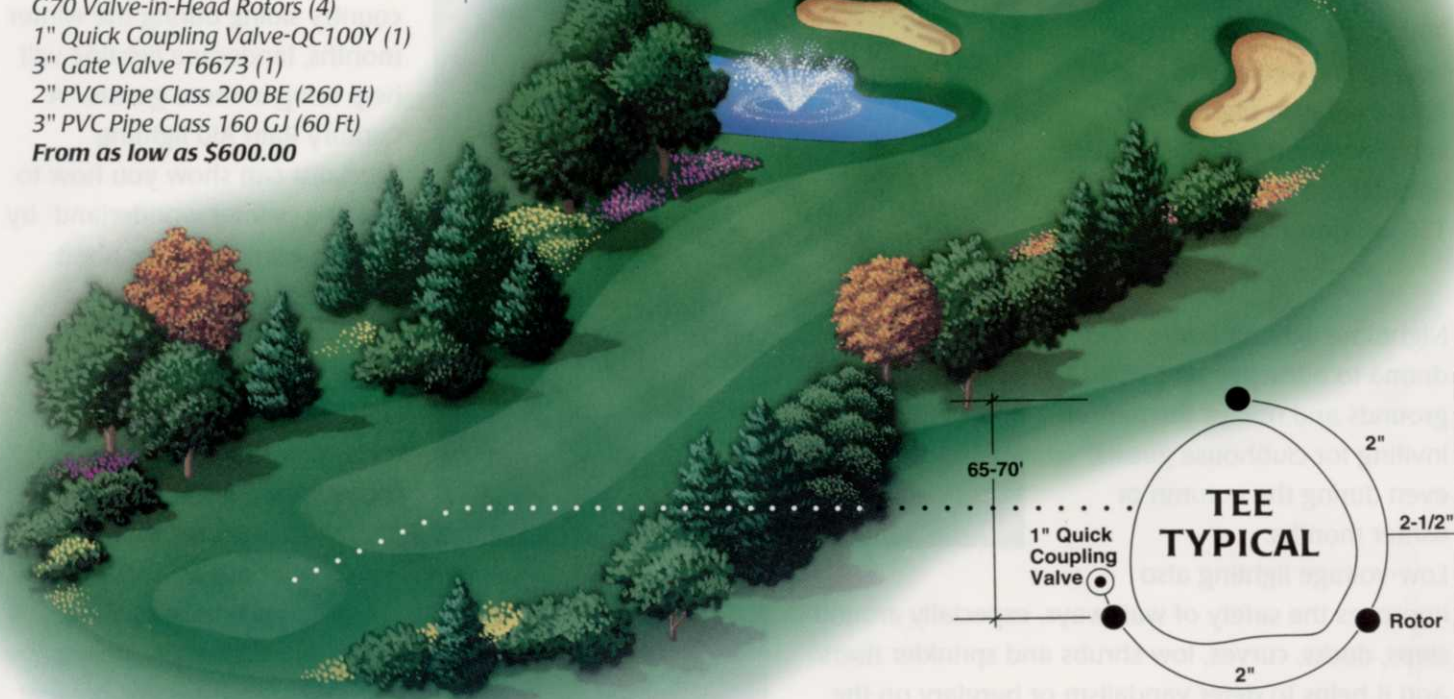
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- #9 Archie Hall (Superintendent)
- #13 Bill Neus (Superintendent)
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Long Drive:

- #3 Rick Wakefield (Superintendent)
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- (63) Chevy Chase Club
- (64) U. of Md. Golf Course
- (66) Rattlewood Golf Course
- (66) Cedar point Golf Course
- (67) Shenandoah Valley CC
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- (69) Bristow Manor Golf Club
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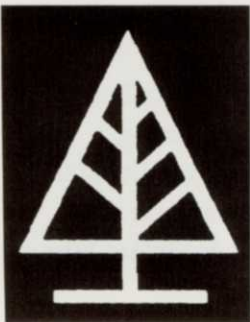
- (68) Robert Trent Jones CC
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Mike Evans, Golf Director, would like to thank all of our sponsors for the day! Through the generosity of the following companies and organizations, almost four thousand dollars was raised for this year's Superintendent/Professional Tournament. Without this tremendous support, an event of this caliber would not be possible.

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Bullets from the Boardroom

MAAGCS Secretary, Nick Vance, CGCS

The March 18, 1997 GCSAA Irrigation Seminar in Bethesda had only 18 people in attendance.

To host a one-day GCSAA seminar, MAAGCS must guarantee the National an attendance of at least 20. We did not even make our quota. Though most of our seminars are well attended, we must make every effort to fill every meeting. Having them locally makes it much easier for certified superintendents to get their CEU's, but even more importantly, makes it possible for our members who do not attend the National to furt

On that note, please pay attention to future notices regarding our December two-day seminar and the dates for the MAAGCS Annual Membership meeting. We may have to change them to fit in a seminar that we have not hosted in this area yet.

We now have a library of more than 50 videos from GCSAA and other sources for use by our membership. Anyone who wishes to see some of the old "Par for the Course" tapes or wants to know what else is available should contact me. I will send you a list of what is available to- date. Also anyone who has any videos that he thinks might be of interest to the rest of the membership and would like to share them should also call me and I will make arrangements to get them in the Library.

MAAGCS has ordered two dozen logo shirts from the National. They will have the affiliated logo on

the left chest and "Mid-Atlantic" on the left sleeve. The sizes range from medium to extra-extra large. They should be available in late June or early July and will be sold at our monthly meetings by the Finance committee. More details will follow.

On a sour note, we are still having trouble with our reservation system. We must make sure to be courteous to our fellow superintendents and their clubs by making our reservations on-time and keeping them. For those of you who do not understand the importance of this, volunteer to host a meeting.

The University of Maryland Student Chapter has now completed all of their necessary requirements to become an affiliated chapter of GCSAA.

The Board of Directors has received a number of resumes for the position of MAAGCS Executive Secretary and will have interviewed all of the candidates by early June. We hope to have a solid candidate on board soon.

The BOD has also noticed that we have a lot of friends out there that have not been attending meetings regularly. Lets all help remind them that they are missed and we would like to see them.

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Superintendents Speak Out

by Doug Fleming

The Driving Range. How to keep playable surface under the golfers' feet? What's the grass of choice? How heavily should it be maintained? How heavily should it be used? Here are some responses from superintendents in the area:

Golf Course Name	Burning Tree Club	Fawnlake C.C.	River Run C.C.	Fairway Hills G.C.	Hillendale C.C.
Superintendent	George Renault CGCS	Bob Wren	Fred Heinlen	Ryland Chapman	Geoff Blind
Size of Driving Range Tee	22,000 sq. ft.	44,000 sq.ft.	8,000 sq.ft.	Turf Mats Only	44,000 sq.ft.
Dates of Turf Use	7 days/week Apr 1-Sep 1	7 days/week Mar 1-Dec1	7 days/week Year-round	N/A	6 days/week Mar 15-Dec 31
Use of Turf Mats	7 days/week Oct 2-Mar 31	7 days/week Dec 2-Feb 28	None	7 days/week Year-round	1 day/week Mar 15-Dec 31 + 7 days/week Jan 1-Mar 14
Provision of Range Balls	Unlimited/Free	Unlimited/Free	Charge per Bucket	Charge per Bucket	Unlimited/Free
Types of Turf	Zoysiagrass	Zoysiagrass Bermudagrass	Ryegrass/	N/A	Kentucky Bluegrass/ Ryegrass + 10,000 sq. ft. tee of Bermudagrass
Annual Seed Use	None	None-All Divots Sanded	200 lbs.	N/A	500 lbs.
Annual Fertilizer Use	10 lbs. N	3 lbs. N	6 lbs. N	N/A	4-6 lbs. N
Weekly Maintenance	10-15 man-hours	20-25 man-hours	5-7 man-hours	None	30 man-hours

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Superintendent/Club Official Tournament

Host: Andy Sheehan, CGCS

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