



TURFGRASS MATTERS

October/November 1997

Volume 69, Number 4

Patience is a Virtue

by Gary Harshman, Bay Hills Golf Club

It's that time of year again in the Mid-Atlantic Region when those of us involved with the game of golf must prepare ourselves to deal with the inevitability of frost delays at our favorite golfing venues. Now that we are well into the fall season, all of us, golfers, golf course superintendents, golf professionals and pro shop staffs must contend with disruptions of schedules due to frost.

I'm sure the majority of the golfing public understands the reasoning behind why golf cannot be played on frost covered turfgrass, but a reminder of the agronomic rationale for waiting for frost to clear is in order at this time of year. The leaf blades of the grass plant perform several important functions in the life cycle of the plant. Among the most important are photosynthesis, carbohydrate production and storage as well as respiration. In one sense, you could think of the leaves as the "lungs" of the plant. The leaf blade contains small openings called stomates that take in carbon dioxide and are responsible for the respiration process of the plant. At night, these stomates close to preserve water for use in the plant the next day.

When Mother Nature puts down a covering of frost over-

night, small ice crystals form on the leaves blocking the stomates and freezing leaf tissue. If foot or vehicular traffic is allowed on the turfgrass the frozen tissues are destroyed causing desiccation or dying of the leaves. You may be familiar with the term "footprinting" which is used to describe this injury to the plant.

Another important function of the leaf blade is to act as a protectant for the crown of the grass plant. The crown is the "heart" of the plant from which all growth begins, including roots, stems, and leaves. If leaf blades are destroyed the crown is exposed and very susceptible to further damage. If the crown is destroyed, the result is dead turfgrass.

As you also know, turfgrass managers have been busy in September and October with the process of overseeding or re-seeding many areas of the golf course. As with young humans, young grass plants are more prone to injury and infectious diseases than are adults. If young seedlings are injured by traffic under frost conditions their chances for survival are greatly reduced. The goal of every turfgrass manager is to provide the golfer with the best playing conditions possible throughout the entire year. This is why certain precautions must be taken when dealing with frost. Frost delays are an inconvenience for

everyone. The maintenance staff must wait until the frost clears to prepare the course for play, the pro shop staff has to deal with rearranging tee times and the golfer is left to drink coffee and rehash that three foot birdie putt they missed yesterday. At times like these the two most important qualities to employ are patience and communication.

Communication is the key. The golf course superintendent or assistant must update the pro shop staff with an estimate of when the course will be ready for play, in turn the pro shop staff must keep golfers informed about when play may begin.

When you encounter your next frost delay remember these two cliches - "You can't fight Mother Nature" and "Patience is a Virtue."

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President's Message

Dean Graves



Can you believe the holiday season is only a few days away? Time seems to really pass quickly as the years pass. I hope this letter greets everybody in good health and with great encouragement for the holidays.

The Board of Directors has been very busy and believe it or not our time has been dedicated toward productive issues. We have felt for sometime that the Association has not fulfilled the needs of our members. The membership needs have changed and we want to make sure the Association has made changes to parallel those needs.

Mr. Lynn Matson with Mr. Harry Fridley and Mr. Rick Fritz have volunteered their time to evaluate the needs of Class F (commercial) members. They have given the BOD very valuable information regarding the perceptions of the Association. The BOD has spent many hours digesting this information and have made appropriate alterations at our chapter meetings and the way we conduct business. One of the most notable remarks from the Class F feedback is they want to "help the Association grow" via education. Class F members want to help us be better consumers by educating us on timely topics. They would prefer to get away from the hole sponsorship type monetary support and back direct educational seminars. The BOD thinks this is great and has setup a special committee to help make this come true for the 1998 season. I want to say a special thank you to Lynn, Harry, and Rick for their time and continued support to the Association. Mr. Mike Gilmore gave these three individuals

the task of evaluating the commercial members and they provided the BOD some very interesting information. Without their help the Association would not have the opportunity to grow and improve. It is reassuring to know that we have friends we can call on in any situation for help.

The BOD is presently formulating focus groups of Class A, B, and C members to best evaluate our needs. Once this information is gathered and compiled we will implement the needs of the membership. This will hopefully align the Association to the true needs of the group and enable us to have healthy growth in the future.

I want to express my sincerest thank you to Mr. John Haley for hosting the October chapter meeting and Annual Golf Championship. The course was in great condition; greens were like pool tables and pin placements were all on the opposite side of the green from where my ball was hit. The entire club made us feel very welcome and extended a gracious hand of hospitality. John, thank you for a wonderful day of golf and evening of elegant dining.

It has been brought to the attention of the BOD that some fellow Superintendents have been playing golf without prior notice to the host superintendent. It is clearly stated in our By-Laws Code of Ethics "When visiting other golf courses for a non-Association event: I will call on the Superintendent of the golf course." Please take a few minutes to call



Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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Rockville, MD 20850

TURFGRASS MATTERS Committee

Chris Ayers
Editor

R. Tucker Mostrom
Kevin Pryseski
Doug Fleming

From the Editor

by Chris Ayers, Director of Communication

I know many of you read each edition of Turfgrass Matters from cover to cover, but how many of you truly appreciate the content of your newsletter? The newsletter is an invaluable resource for keeping up with the happenings in your region and chosen fields. Have you noticed that some issues do not contain a single article written by a local superintendent? Too often this

editor is forced to fill the newsletter with information from outside resources. Thankfully, there is no shortage of useful materials on the internet, in allied association publications and provided by the GCSAA's own media/chapter relations department. Remember, MAAGCS is after all a superintendents association. I feel very strongly that Turfgrass Matters should remain a local/regional publication that utilizes all possible resources.

In order for us to achieve this goal, we need your articles. In this day of proactivism and communication, many of you are already writing informative articles/reports for your own members, boards, or owners. Why not consider submitting an article to your association's newsletter? There is an abundance of talent in the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, let's start spreading the wealth! Submit your article today.

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MAAGCS Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Education Committee is please to announce this year's recipients of the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents Scholarships. A Merit Scholarship, recognizing special achievement, has been awarded to Andrea C. Bakalyar. Andrea, sponsored by Bob Miller, CGCS is currently working at Cattail Creek Country Club and is serving as president of the Maryland Student Chapter of the GCSAA. She will receive a

\$1500.00 scholarship for her educational expenses at the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture.

The committee selected four additional students to receive \$1,000 scholarships. Damon Digiorgio, a student at North Carolina State University, was nominated by George Thompson, CGCS of The Country Club of North Carolina. The remaining recipients, Mark Menusan, nominated by Bill Neus, CGCS of

Hobbits Glen Golf Course, Brett R. Post, nominated by James M. Weaver of Washington Golf and Country Club, and Kyle Stephens, nominated by Ryland O. Chapman IV of Fairways Hills Golf Course all attend the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture. The Education Committee is comprised of Director Ryland Chapman, Bill Neus, CGCS, and Bob Wren. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients.



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STUDENT Chapter News

By Andrea Bakalyar, President

The 1997 Fall semester is only a few weeks from being over. Belatedly the Maryland Student Chapter GCSAA would like to welcome the fifteen new students that joined the Golf Course Management program this fall at the Institute of Applied Agriculture. Good luck with your future education and careers. Congratulations to the students who look forward to graduating in December: Dennis Granahan, Kyle Stevens, Brett Post and Jamie Potchner.

The Maryland Student Chapter has been very active this fall and we are still anticipating a lot of events in the upcoming winter break. We began the Fall semester with a Welcome Back Picnic in cooperation with the Institute of Applied Agriculture. The picnic was held on September 16, 1997 and the students and faculty enjoyed a cook out and several volleyball games. A chapter meeting was held October 1, 1997. We discussed several ideas about building student support for the chapter. One idea we are pursuing is opening a conference on In Ag

On Line, so chapter information is accessible to everyone.

Other events this Fall included twenty students attending the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents monthly meeting at Hillendale Country Club on November 11, 1997. Many thanks to the MAAGCS for inviting the chapters. Of course the biggest event for the chapter this semester is the launch of our first fundraiser. Available for \$25.00 are 100% cotton pique, short sleeve polo shirts in four colors: Navy, Forest, Maroon and Ash Gray. We are also selling low profile embroidered caps in Navy, Maroon, and Forest for \$12.00. Thank you to those who have supported our sale of the "University of Maryland - Turfgrass" shirts and caps. For those who are interested in making a purchase, you may do so at the monthly MAAGCS meetings or at the Maryland Turf Show in January at the Baltimore Convention Center. Future sale items will include turtlenecks, wind jackets, and denim shirts. The chapter hopes to earn \$1000.00 this semester to

cover chapter expenses, event costs and offering student scholarships. The Maryland Student Chapter would like to congratulate all of its scholarship winners and thank the Maryland Turfgrass Council and the MAAGCS for their student support. The following students were recognized:

Maryland Turfgrass Council

Andrea C. Bakalyar
Mark Berry
Brett Post

Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Andrea C. Bakalyar
Brett Post
Mark Menusan
Kyle Stevens

In conclusion, thank you to all of those who offered summer internships. The students also appreciate all the flexibility they are allowed during the semester by the superintendents. Many students need to work while attending college and your understanding and generosity makes a huge difference.



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Superintendents Speak Out

by Doug Fleming



as the purchase of your Border Collie been successful in controlling your goose problem?

Michael Larson - Woodmont C.C.

Dog's Name: *Jill*

"It has been the best money that we have ever spent. We went from 300 to 0 geese in just one year."

Dean Graves - Bethesda C.C.

Dog's Name: *Nell*

"We got Nell in August and now we don't have any geese on the property. The members feel it was the best investment that we ever made. She is a great pet for the staff."

Tim Norris, CGCS - Army, Navy C.C. Fairfax

Dog's Name: *Glen*

"Glen works as advertised, within three weeks, a majority of the geese were gone. Glen has also become the Club mascot."

Chis Ayers - Lakewood C.C.

Dog's Name: *Charlie*

"Our goose problem was dramatically reduced in the span of only one year, once we purchased our Border Collie we went from too many to count to only seven in 1997. What was once a serious inconvenience is now very manageable."

Michael Gilmore - Turf Valley Resort & CC

Dog's Name: *Ruff* (former), *Wise* (present)

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News & Notes

New Members

A.A. William Augustin	Country Club of Maryland	Class C
Robert Glen Carpenter	Carroll Park G. C.	Class B
Dennis David	Rental Tools Group	Class F
Carmen Giannini	Army Navy C. C. (Fairfax)	Class C
Trent Inman	Caves Valley G. C.	Class C
Carter McCamy	Environmental Quality Resources	Class F
Bruce Phillips	Treemasters	Class F
Jack Roxbrough	Fisher & Son, Inc.	Class F

Congratulations

John Gabbeitt of Little Bennett Golf Course and his wife, Teri, on the birth of their baby boy, Andrew Joseph, on September 11.

Reroutings

Michael Augustin is now at Belle Haven C. C.
Tom Cassat is now at Ocean Pines Golf & C. C.
Russ Davis is now at Beech Tree Golf Club
Mark Kingora in now at Bethesda C. C.
Jim Meier, CGCS is now at Kastle Green G. C.
Paul O'Leary is now at Hillendale C. C.

Condolences

To the family and friends of Charlotte and Tim Norris, CGCS, on the death of her aunt Linda Koons on November 9.

To the family and friends of Linda and Walter Montross, CGCS, on the death of her mother Jean Sharrard on November 19.

Get Well Wishes

To Ed Childs and Michael Graebner of Finch Turf Equipment, both recovering from various surgeries.

To George Renualt's father recuperating at home from a recent illness.

Come Back and Visit

Skip Lynch, formerly of Pro Seed Turf Supply, has returned to the Willamette Valley, and Seed Research of Oregon.



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MAAGCS Golf Notes

After a month sabbatical, it was nice to get back to playing golf again. Our Annual Championship was held October 14, at Chartwell Golf and Country Club. We had a tremendous turnout with 89 players, 85 of whom played in the Championship. The golf course proved to be a formidable challenge with 78 being the low gross score, and only two net scores breaking par. Host superintendent John Haley, assistants Scott Leonard and Mike Ryan, and the entire staff had the golf course in great shape. Thanks, John for a job well done! Thanks also to head golf professional Phil Sainsbury and his staff for all of their help, especially the score cards and scoring sheets. It was a pleasure working with a club whose entire staff went the extra mile to make us feel welcome and make our event special.

As for golf, Jim McHenry successfully defended his title, again capturing the Kenneth Baker Award for low gross, and Rich Issac won the Angelo Cammarota Award for low net. The results from our Annual Championship are:

Gross

- 1st Jim McHenry (78)
- 2nd Scott Wagner (80)
- 3rd Brendon O'Rourke (81)
- 4th Bill Shirk (81)
- 5th Paul Krout (83)
- 6th Lee Carroll (83)
- 7th Tim Norris (85)
- 8th Tim Sage (87)
- 9th Tom Mynaugh (88)
- 10th Gordon Caldwell (88)

Affiliate Flight Gross

- 1st Skip Lynch (84)
- 2nd Paul Brandon (85)
- 3rd Paul Tideman (86)
- 4th Dennis David (89)

Closest to the Hole

- # 4 Andy Sheehan
- # 8 Gordon Caldwell
- #12 John Haley
- #14 Paul Brandon

Net

- Rich Issac (72)
- Jeff Webster (73)
- Walter Montross (73)
- Bill Neuss (74)
- Ed Gasper (75)
- Bob Wren (76)
- Ken Ingram (76)
- Charlie Poole (77)
- Louis Bettencourt (77)
- Steve Cohoon (77)

Affiliate Flight Net

- Tim Davison (75)
- Bob Orazi (76)
- Eric Lassen (78)
- Dave Thomas (79)

Closest to the Line

- # 6 Mike Ryan

Long Drive

- # 17 Dan Schlegel

The 1997 Met Tournament was held October 6, at the Country Club of Darien in Connecticut. The MAAGCS team was comprised of Bill Shirk, Scott Wagner, Paul Brandon, Jeff Vance, Walter Montross, Nick Vance, Mike Legere, and Lou Rudinski. While they did not bring home the trophy, all reported having a great time and thoroughly enjoyed playing a wonderful old golf course.

Thanks for representing us guys!!

Hobbits Glen Golf Course hosted the 9th Annual Maryland Turfgrass Research Tournament, the Angie Cammarota Memorial, October 6. The tournament had a field of 63 players and 28 hole sponsors. The team of Sean Remington, Andy Sheehan, Kevin Smith, and Wayne Brissey won the event. Tournament Chairman Ryland Chapman reported that more than \$6,000 was raised for turfgrass industry research.

The 1997 Challenge Cup was played October 15, at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links. The MAAGCS team of Bill Shirk, Jim McHenry, Scott Wagner, John Newcomb, Nick Vance, Sean Remington, Dave Rudinski, and Paul Masimore, narrowly missed defending its title, being edged out by the team from Philadelphia.

The 11th Annual John Deere Regional Team Championship hosted by Finch Equipment was held September 18th at Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club. After a "three way chip-off" the team from Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, MD (MAAGCS member George Renault) won the right to represent the Mid-Atlantic P.G.A. section November 5th -10th at Wild Wing Plantation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. John Deere and Finch Equipment have contributed over \$100,000 from these tournaments to GCSAA and to the local associations which the winning teams represented.

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Focus Groups to Meet

As we continue towards the 21st century, the need to stay in touch with changing trends and technology is in the forefront of all of our minds. The need to be prepared is paramount to being successful and keeping in touch with people in the industry is one way to do this. The MAAGCS is embarking on a path that is designed to "keep us in touch" with changes in the industry. The Board of Directors had decided to begin a series of Focus Groups, led by individual Board members, that will be designed to find out how the MAAGCS can better serve the membership, as we enter an exciting new era.

These groups will be small in number throughout the region. We will begin by working with the Golf Course Superintendent, Class A & B members, and engaging them in discussion involving several topics. The topics will range from "What is the role of the MAAGCS in the coming years?",

"What can the MAAGCS do to increase participation?", to issues such as "What role should Class C & F members have in shaping the future policies of the Association?"

You will receive an invitation to attend one of these meetings. The meetings will be in your area and will only take 1 1/2 to 2 hours. It is important that we know whether you will be attending as there is some pre-planning that must be done to accommodate the group. These meetings will be during the month of December. Please plan to attend, the group will only be worthwhile if there is good participation. Let the BOD know what you like, don't like, what you expect from the MAAGCS and if you want to get involved in the process to help reach the goals. This process will be held again with the Class C and F members to give everyone a chance to "Let us Know!!" Thanks in advance for participating in this effort to improve the MAAGCS!!!

"Did You Know?"

At their summer meeting, the GCSAA Board of Directors approved an Education Committee recommendation regarding a dress code for all GCSAA seminars, including conference seminars and chapter-hosted regional seminars. As you may recall, a dress code already exists for several conference events. The new seminar dress code is intended to help promote the professional image of golf course superintendents through professional attire. The new dress code for conference and chapter-hosted seminars is casual business attire (slacks and collared shirts for men, similar attire for women); jackets are recommended. For your reference the dress code for the conference events are as follows:

Trade Show and Educational Sessions - *Casual Golf Attire*

Opening Session and Government & Environmental General Session - *Sport coat and similar dress for women.*

Gala Reception and Dinner - *Coat and tie, and similar dress for women.*

Welcoming Reception - *Semi-business attire, such as an open-collared shirt with a sport coat for men and similar attire for women.*

Golf Tournament - *Casual golf attire, such as golf shirt or sweater and casual slacks, no jeans.*

Victory Reception and Banquet - *Business attire, such as a suit with coat and tie for men, and similar attire for women.*

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Bullets from the Boardroom

MAAGCS Secretary, Nick Vance, CGCS

The MAAGCS Board of Directors has been working with a committee of Class F members to revisit some issues that may help us further improve relationships with our sponsors. We have reviewed all the comments made to the committee (Mr. Lynn Matson, Mr. Harry Fridley, and Mr. Rick Fritz) and are implementing many of their suggestions into our schedules. The MAAGCS Board appreciate the efforts of this committee and will continue to work with all of our members in an attempt to keep everyone informed and to improve member relations.

As a matter of information, the MAAGCS has mailed out 34 job referrals through the month of August.

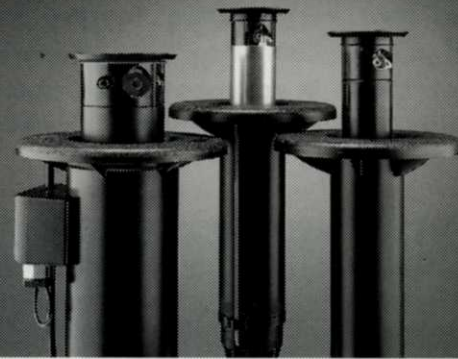
Many thanks to Mr. Lou Rudinski who made the arrangements for the picnic at Mayo Beach, Mr. John Newcomb, CGCS for hosting approximately 60 golfers at South Rivera and to Mr. Gordon Caldwell, CGCS for orchestrating the whole day. The annual picnic at Mayo Beach was very well attended. The feedback from most of those in attendance was very good and the Board of Directors would like to hear any other comments from the membership regarding the location.

AGAIN, we are asking our membership to help with our reservations at monthly meetings. The Association has "funded" every meeting this year for "NO SHOWS." We bill the members for the meeting cost

however, \$300.00 is still outstanding. We need to think of our peers hosting these events and also think of the impression we leave at the host clubs when we disregard our responsibilities.

It has been brought to the attention of the Board of Directors that some of our members have been visiting other golf courses without contacting the superintendent. As a member of the MAAGCS we should all be familiar with our Code of Ethics: Rule 10-B states that when visiting other golf courses for non-Association events: (1) I will call on the Superintendent of the Golf Course. (2) I will present my GCSAA membership card.

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1998 MAAGCS Dues Statement

The 1998 MAAGCS Dues Statements will be mailed January 2, 1998. Dues will not increase for 1998. The dues structure is \$120.00 for Class A, B & F members and \$95.00 for Class C members. If you have any outstanding assessments for 1997 (Invoices for Meeting No-Shows) you will not be considered a "Member in Good Standing" therefore, your dues will not be accepted for the upcoming year until these have been cleared. These assessments will appear on your dues

statement if they are applicable. The procedure for this year's statement is different than in the past. Each member will receive a two-part invoice. The Remittance (yellow) Copy is to be returned with the membership dues and the Member Copy (white) is to be retained for the member's administrative purposes. Also enclosed with your dues statement will be a 4 x 6 self-addressed and stamped postcard that contains all the information needed for the 1998 MAAGCS Directory.

Please mark any necessary changes and place in the mail as soon as possible. **Everyone must return this postcard even if no changes need to be made to your listing!** This procedure should insure the directory being mailed in June 1998. Please cooperate in this effort to provide a timely and accurate directory for the Association.

Please contact the MAAGCS office at (888) MID-TURF if you have any questions.

Please Note

It would be greatly appreciated if you would notify the MAAGCS' office of any future News & Notes items, or changes/mistakes in the Directory.

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February 2-8

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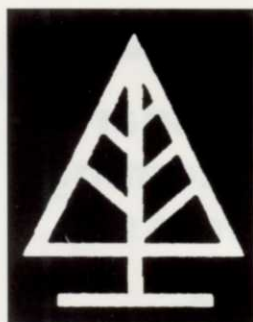
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