



TURFGRASS MATTERS

May/June 1999

Volume 71, Number 2

Insect Monitoring: An Essential Tool for Insect Management

by Dr. Kevin Mathias

Institute of Applied Agriculture

A cornerstone of Integrated Pest Management programs (IPM) is the ability to monitor for the presence and also the level or degree of infestation for various turfgrass insects. Black light trapping and pheromone trapping are passive sampling techniques that allow someone to determine current and seasonal turfgrass insect populations. Also degree-day models, which use temperature as the basis for approximating insect development, have been reported over the last 15 years.

Since 1996 I have been involved in collecting, identifying and yes counting weekly insect catches (May through August) from several golf courses in Maryland and Northern Virginia. Also cumulative degree-days have been recorded to confirm and correlate insect development and current degree-day models. For the 1999 season three golf courses have been selected where turfgrass insects will be monitored using black light traps. Weekly insect counts and cumulative degree-days will be posted on the internet for easy access. The address for internet access is as follows: <http://iaa.umd.edu.umturf/umturf.html> and will be located in the folder on Insects.

Turfgrass insects collected with black light traps include masked chafers, the oriental beetle, May-June beetles, the Asiatic garden beetle, the black turfgrass ateniensis beetle, sod webworms, and the

black cutworm. Based on our sampling the major insects are masked chafers, sod webworms, the black turfgrass ateniensis beetle, and the black cutworm. Some of the major findings to date are summarized below.

- ✦ In 1997 and 1998 masked chafers were extremely high when compared to 1996 counts.
- ✦ Black cutworm counts were extremely high in May of 1997 and in August 1998.
- ✦ In 1998 insect development was occurring earlier and averaging two to three weeks ahead of schedule for such insects as masked chafers and black cutworm.
- ✦ At the Montgomery County site there has been an annual increase in the number of oriental beetles collected from 1996-98.
- ✦ Sod webworm counts were extremely high in 1998 compared to the two previous years.
- ✦ Degree-day models have been fairly accurate in predicting emergence of first generation turfgrass insects.
- ✦ Black light trapping and degree-day models can provide future insight on insect populations and insect development.

With the assistance of the MAAGCS my goal is to provide monitoring information to area golf course superintendents via the internet to help in the decision making process with respect to current insect and degree-day conditions. With the newer reduced-risk pesticides available for insect control, monitoring becomes even more important to ensure both acceptable and consistent control.

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President's Message

Walter C. Montross, CGCS



A member at Westwood once mentioned to me that every newsletter article I wrote began with a weather commentary. He went on to say that I usually mentioned that this was the hottest, driest, wettest, coldest most miserable weather ever experienced. I was sure he was wrong so I went back and read my articles only to find references to Noah's Ark, Sodom and Gomorrah, El Nino, Global Warming and Ozone Depletion. To my amazement I discovered he was right, I always seem to find fault with the prevailing conditions. Why do I mention this? As I sit here and reflect on the need to irrigate, I can reflect back to last year when we were under water and losing the mowing battle. I am going on record that for the first time in my life (as a GCS) the weather is perfect! However, I will be intently watching the Weather Channel for possible changes to my outlook.

Many thanks to Ken Keller and Fountain Head CC for hosting the April meeting. The weather cleared right before play and the conditions were marvelous. Kudos to Steve Potter, C.G.C.S. and thanks to Woodholme CC for hosting the May Superintendent/Professional Tournament. This is a huge undertaking and commitment to not only host your peers but the many club pros.

The Welcoming Committee, which is chaired by Nick Vance, David Burkhart and John Newcomb has gotten off to a terrific start. At this time they along with the many volunteers (who have offered to

help) have visited with over 70 new and prospective members. The feedback we are getting is very positive and I hope these new people will join us at our future meetings.

John Newcomb, our Social and Benevolence Chairman is in the process of organizing a luncheon for the spouses. We hope to generate feedback on the many social issues our Association should and does deal with. It is also our hope to create a possible support network amongst our members and spouses. I remember when my wife first met other members wives at a social function, on our way home she said she was surprised at how similar (complaining was the word she used) we all were. She thought I was the only one that worked unreasonable hours, worked on weekends and didn't take summer vacations with the family. I would like to encourage all spouses to attend. You just may find some much needed support or at least some humorous anecdotes about the frailties of our chosen profession.

This brings me to the subject of family and the time we spend with them. I hope by now you have booked that summer vacation with the family. Having a 16 year old daughter and a 14 year old son it is easy to see our time together diminishing in the near future. I hope if I have learned anything about this business it is to work smarter (not longer) and to realize that no matter how hard I work there is still more to do than is humanly possible.



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maagcs@maagcs.com

Charlotte Norris, Executive Secretary

Turfgrass Matters Committee

Tim R. Norris, CGCS - Editor

Carmen Gianinni * Keith Williams

Bullets from the Boardroom

-  The Board of Directors approved money to expand Dr. Kevin Mathias' light trap research project. The new test site will be located at a golf course in the Baltimore area.
-  A contribution in excess of \$2,000.00 will be made to the American Cancer Society at the June 8th, Superintendent/Club Official Tournament at Chevy Chase Club. Ms. Jan Fox of WUSA-TV Channel 9 will be on hand to accept the donation on behalf of the American Cancer Society.
-  The Welcoming Committee has already visited more than fifty new members of our Association. The response from those new members has been overwhelmingly positive. Congratulations to the Welcoming Committee for a great effort and to all new members of the MAAGCS.
-  The Board of Directors approved funds to help support the Virginia Turfgrass Survey. The survey, conducted by the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation, will substantiate the economic impact of the turfgrass industry in Virginia.
-  Communications Director, Tim Norris, CGCS, has arranged for the MAAGCS to host a tent at the Kemper Open and the State Farm Senior Classic. These tents will be similar to the MAAGCS booths at the Greater Washington and Baltimore Golf Shows earlier this year. MAAGCS volunteers will be on hand to answer questions, dispense ball mark repair tools, and promote our profession and our Association.
-  The Board of Directors approved a motion by Social and Benevolence Director, John Newcomb, CGCS, to fund a Ladies Luncheon. The luncheon will be held June 5th, at Kings Contrivance, in Columbia. This offers our spouses a great opportunity to meet new friends and commiserate with one another over our chosen occupation.

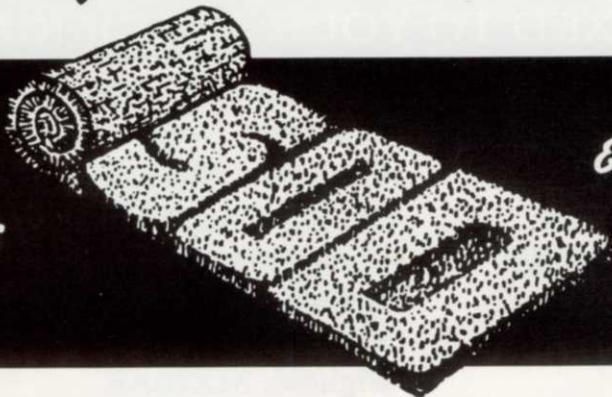


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Editor's Letter

Tim R. Norris, CGCS, Director of Communications

As the golf season gets into full swing I know that we all have projects and pressures that at times seem insurmountable. However, every once in a while it is important to step back and look at the "big picture". With the tragedy at Columbine High School in Colorado and the troubles that face the refugees in Kosovo we should all be thankful for the things that we have and perhaps some that we don't. Our Executive Secretary, Charlotte Norris, gave each member of the MAAGCS Board of Directors a copy of Dr. Richard Carlson's *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff at Work*. This book has many ideas to help you through those stressful days when nothing seems to go right. Turfgrass Matters will feature an excerpt from this book in each issue this year with the idea that maybe someone can glean some bit of information that will help them through their day.

In this issue, Dr. Kevin Mathias gives us an update on his insect trapping research and discusses the trends that he is seeing in the Mid-Atlantic region. There are also brief recaps of the March seminar and the April meeting held at Fountain Head Country Club. Golf Chairman, John Kotoski, CGCS gives the results of the 1999 Superintendent/Pro Tournament.

Let's hope that the dry spring is not a preview of the coming summer and we all have adequate rain, no disease, and moderate temperatures.



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Maryland Student Chapter News

by Scott Ferguson, President

Congratulations to all of the 1999 IAA Turfgrass Management graduates. Here is a list of the 15 students in the graduating class and their current place of employment. Jeff Ashley- Westwood C.C., Mark Berry- Newark C.C., Brian Bupp- Four Streams Golf Club, Bill Burford- Timbers of Troy Golf Course, Tom Calpin-Scranton, Pennsylvania, Marty Eader- Laytonsville Golf Course, Scott Furlong- Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, Guy McDonald- The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base, Mark Menusan- Greystone Golf Course, John Shanahan- The Woodlands and Diamond Ridge Golf Clubs, Erin Stevens- Riviera C.C., Bill Stowers- Winged Foot C.C., Kevin Teal- Business Partnership in Colorado, Jon Urbanski-Wilmington C.C., and Tom Wunch- Norbeck C.C.. Again, congratulations and we all know your hard work will pay off for you in the future.

Once again, the sales of Maryland Student Chapter shirts, caps and windshirts was an enormous success. Thanks to all of those who helped support the Chapter by making a purchase. There are a few items remaining for sale or a special order can be made. A special thank you to the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents for their continued support of the Student Chapter. The MAAGCS and the Maryland Student Chapter have a special relationship that many, if not most, other Student Chapters do not have, which is, support from their local or regional association. The MAAGCS made a gracious donation to assist the president and vice president of the Chapter in their travels to the 1999 GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida. Proceeds from merchandise sales also was of great help. It is such an excellent opportunity for students to attend educational seminars, interact with the professionals of our future careers and to see the whole world of the Turfgrass industry. All of the students that attended school and worked at the same time would like thank our bosses or supervisors for their support and understanding of the hectic schedule we live during those times and, most importantly, for the time it takes to educate us about our future careers in the golf course industry.

The Student Chapter had an excellent turnout of 20 at the USGA Sectional Meeting hosted by Woodholme C.C. and Steve Potter, CGCS on March 16. All students that attended learned a great deal from the educational meeting and thoroughly enjoyed the crabcakes. The USGA discounted the attendance fee for these students. The IAA also supported student attendance by covering a portion of the attendance fee. Thank you. Also, six students attended the Mid-Atlantic meeting and golf outing hosted by Fountain Head C.C. and golf course superintendent, Ken Keller and his assistant, the IAA'S own Bob Shanholtz. Thanks go out to the staff at Fountain Head for the brilliant condition of golf course.

The IAA Open was held on May 21, 1999 at Rattlewood Golf Course in Mt. Airy. Special thanks to Nick Vance, CGCS, and the Montgomery County Revenue Authority for being kind enough to host this annual event and donate the tee times to the Student

Chapter. Approximately 25 current and graduating students will be participating in a friendly golf outing and barbecue afterwards.

At this point in time, there are four individuals that have been nominated as officers of the Maryland Student Chapter for the upcoming school year starting in the Fall of 1999. The nominees are: Steve Evans as President, Mark Dupcak as Vice-President, Brian Moreau as treasurer, and Geoffrey Blain as secretary. The Student Chapter will be in very capable hands with these officers. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to the program. Last, but certainly not least, a very sincere and deserved thank you from the IAA student body goes out to the entire staff at the Institute of Applied Agriculture. From top to bottom, all of these people are dedicated to educating, guiding, assisting, and understanding the students enrolled in our school within a school. They are constantly striving to increase the already highly regarded reputation of the IAA program. It certainly is appropriate to have a quality Turfgrass program in, perhaps, one the best areas of the country to learn about turfgrass management: the always unpredictable Mid-Atlantic. Once again, thank you from the students of the IAA Turfgrass Management Program to everyone that has supported the University of Maryland Student Chapter. To our fifteen colleagues graduating on May 23, congratulations and good luck !! Enjoy the summer, may we all experience a mild one, and please continue to promote the IAA Turfgrass Program.

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Absorb the Speed Bumps of Your Day



A metaphor I've found helpful in my own life is that of a speed bump. Rather than labeling the issues that come up during a typical work day as problems, I think of them as speed bumps. An actual speed bump, as you know, is a low bump in a road designed to get your attention and slow you down. Depending on how you approach and deal with the bump, it can be a miserable, uncomfortable, even damaging experience, or it can simply be a temporary slow down--no big deal.

If you step on the gas, speed up, and tighten the wheel, for example, you'll hit the bump with a loud thump! Your car will be damaged, you'll make a great deal of noise, and you can even injure yourself. In addition, you'll add unnecessary wear and tear to your car, and you'll look foolish and obnoxious to other people. If, however, you approach the bump softly and wisely, you'll be over it in no time. You'll suffer no adverse effects, and your car will be completely unaffected. Let's face it. Either way, you're likely to get over the bump. How you (and your car) feel once you get over it, however, is an entirely different issue.

If you ski, or ride bikes, you already know how this works. If you tighten up your body, it's difficult to absorb the bump. Your form will be terrible and you may even fall. The bump will seem bigger than it really is.

Problems can be looked at in a similar light. You can be annoyed by them, think about how unfair and awful they are, complain about them and commiserate with others. You can remind yourself, over and over again, how difficult life is and how this problem is yet another justification for why you "have a right" to be upset! You can tighten up. Unfortunately, this is the way many people approach their problems.

When you think of your problems as speed bumps, however, they begin to look very different. You'll begin to expect a number of speed bumps to present themselves during a typical day. Like

riding a bike, bumps are simply a part of the experience. You can fight and resist, or you can relax and accept. As a problem shows up during your day, you can begin to say to yourself, "Ah, here's another one." Then, like the ski mogul or bump on your bike ride, you begin to relax into it, thereby absorbing the shock, making it seem less significant. Then you can calmly decide what action or decision is likely to get you over this hurdle in the most effective, graceful manner. Like skiing, the calmer and more relaxed you remain, the easier it is to maneuver.

Thinking of problems as speed bumps encourages you to say things like, "I wonder what the best way to get through this one might be?" There is a healthy element of detachment involved, where you're looking at the problem objectively rather than reactively, looking for the least path of resistance. In other words, you assume there is an answer; you just need to find out what it is. This is in sharp contrast to seeing concerns as problems, where it's tempting to think in

terms of emergencies.

If you think about your work life, you'll probably agree that in one way or another, you do manage to get through a vast majority of the problems you are confronted with. If you didn't, you probably wouldn't last long in whatever it is you are doing. That being the case, where is the logic in panicking and treating each problem like a major disaster?

My guess is that if you experiment with this one--simply thinking and labeling your problems as speed bumps instead of problems--you're going to be pleasantly surprised at how much more manageable your day is going to seem. After all, problems can be really tough, but almost anyone can maneuver over a speed bump.

Reprinted from DONT SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF AT WORK: Simple Ways to Minimize Stress and Conflict While Bringing Out the Best in Yourself and Others by Richard Carlson, Ph.D.. Copyright 1998 by Dr. Richard Carlson. Published by Hyperion. Available wherever books are sold or by calling (800) 759-0190.



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Board Sets New Policy

In an attempt to increase member attendance and participation at monthly meetings the MAAGCS Board of Directors instituted a new policy for participation in two of our major tournaments, the Superintendent/Pro and the Annual Championship. The attendance policy will be in effect immediately for the 2000 tournaments.

- ◆ Attendance at three meetings is required during the prior year in order to participate in the Superintendent/Pro and Annual Championship.
- ◆ Attendance at the Annual Meeting in December will count as two meetings.
- ◆ The March Seminar and the Superintendent/Club Official Tournament will count towards the attendance requirement.
- ◆ The Annual Picnic, Superintendent/Pro Tournament and the Annual Championship DO NOT count.

All entrants not meeting the attendance requirement will be placed on a waiting list and will be allowed to participate in the events if there is not a full field.

The policy will run from March 1999 to April 2000 for the first year and then will be on a calendar year basis. Again, this policy was put into effect in order to increase participation at regular monthly meetings and to allow those members who actively support MAAGCS a chance to compete in the two major golf events of our association.

Questions or comments should be directed to any board member.

MAAGCS
New FAX Number
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1999 MAAGCS Calendar

July 12	Westwood CC Speaker: Dr. Dave Chalmers, USGA Test Green Site	Walter Montross
August 10	Mayo Beach/South River GL Annual Family Picnic	John Newcomb Lou Rudinski
September 14	Woodmont C C Speaker: Dr. Tom Turner, Nutrient Management Plans	Mike Larsen
October 12	Lowes Island GC Annual Championship	Byron Lash
November 9	Breton Bay Golf & CC Speaker: Jim Vance, Public Relations and the Media	Bernie Beaven, CGCS
December 14	The Suburban Club Annual Meeting & GCSAA Seminar	

All dates and locations are subject to change.



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A Glimpse of the Past...

by Lee C. Dieter, CGCS

The post war years were the beginning of a new era in our association, the changes weren't as evident as they would be in the 60's, but times were changing. New courses were being built, and courses that were closed for the duration of the war were reopening. As job openings occurred, there weren't enough qualified people to fill the positions. Some of our older members were accepting positions as consultants, and new members were joining the association. Among the members who were asked to consult were Richard "Dick" Watson and Alton "Ike" Rabbitt. Dick was responsible for Chevy Chase, Burning Tree, and Columbia; Ike consulted at Washington, Congressional, and Prince Georges. I'm sure they worked at other courses also. New members like Francis Coupe, George Campbell, Wayne Jerome, Otho Swain, and others worked with this arrangement and learned the business. Other people came into the association at this time were Willis H. (Bill) Glover, Earnest Stanley, Percy Leduc, Mike Burkholder, Talmage Lumsden, William Windsor, L.R. (Bob) Shields, Bill Schriber, James E. (Jimmy) Thomas, Tom Dawson, Hurley Savage, Charles Schalstock, and Harry Allanson. We also had several pro-superintendents that helped fill this void, among them were Dave Thomson, Joe Reposky, and John Zalesky. The U.S.G.A. started their visitation service at this time also (1953), with Al Radco and Charles Hallowell working with Mid-Atlantic Superintendents.

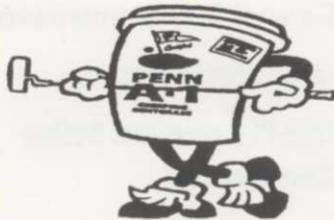
New equipment was being developed rapidly to meet the demands of the industry, Tom Mascaro of the Westpoint Products Company, was a member of our association and a leader in this growth. Dr. Jim Watson of the Toro Company was a member and frequent lecturer at our meetings. The Distributors servicing us with these new products were George Cornell who had the Worthington - Jacobsen and Westpoint dealerships among others. Working at the G.L. Cornell Company were L.W. (Brownie) Brown and Frank Haske. Bob Adams (National Capital Toro) and Gustin's Baltimore Toro were the Toro Dealers in the Washington and Baltimore areas. New chemical products, fertilizers and seeds were being introduced to help these professionals. The F.W. Bolgiano Co. was one of the prime suppliers of these products, and was represented by Wilson Disney.

The First Edition of our Newsletter was produced, Vol. 1 No.1 of "Turf News" and mailed in July of 1947, continues uninterrupted to this day as "Turfgrass Matters". Mentioned in that first issue were: The July meeting had been hosted by the Woodmont Country Club, Mr. Leo Freudberg, Vice President and chairman of the green committee and Mr. Rudy Wills their Greenkeeper. That the next meeting would be at the Baltimore Country Club where Bob Scott would be the host and O. J. Noer, nationally known Turf Authority would be the speaker. Only two foursomes played golf, and Hugh McRae won with a gross 90. They were also complaining about poor attendance at the meetings. Mr. Freudberg asked for suggestions on maintenance of the Kentucky bluegrass, Fescue, and Redtop Fairways on their NEW COURSE. It was also noted that sixty percent of the Mid- Atlantic had gone to power mowers.

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MAAGCS Golf Notes

This year's Superintendent/Pro Tournament seemed to go well even though we went from fifty three teams at one time down to forty six teams. Steve Potter and his staff had the course in great shape and it was a very enjoyable day.

Mike Evans and Larry Ringer from the Country Club at Woodmore won the President's Cup with a low net score of 63.

The day's winners were:

Low Net

1st	Mike Evans/Larry Ringer	63
2nd	Ed Brown/Ron Barrows	65
3rd	Ryland Chapman/Joan Lovelance	65
4th	Jim Weaver/Frank Ferguson	65
5th	Tom Ritter/David Dorn	66
6th	Ken Ingram/Mike Leonard	67
7th	Fred Heinlen/Bob Baldassari	68
8th	Mark McDonald/Jeff Johnson	68
9th	Scott Wagner/Alex Lively	69
10th	Chris Ayers/Steve Madson	69

Low Gross

1st	Steve Potter/Barry Fuhman	69
2nd	Jim Halley/Steve Cleary	70
3rd	Walter Montross/Glen Brown	72

Long Drive

Superintendent	John Haley	Pro	Cary Sciorra
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Closest to Pin

Superintendent	Jim Halley	Bob Collins
Pro	Bob Crowther	Tim McKee

Golf and Reservation Policy

The following policies have been adopted by the MAAGCS Board of Directors. Please read each one carefully. Beginning with the first monthly meeting in March these policies will be strictly enforced.

*** Reservations and cancellations must be made through the MAAGCS office.** Do not call the hosting club, pro shop, or superintendent. These reservations or cancellations are not valid!

* Reservations for golf, dinner, or lunch must be received by the deadline set or you may not attend, **no excuses!!!**

* Reservations not honored will be billed through the Association for reimbursement of no show. The Association must fund no shows for counts given to hosting clubs. Unpaid reservations are considered a special assessment and will be dealt with according to the by-laws.

* Members on the permanent RSVP list will be removed after two no shows or not canceling by the reservation deadline, and not allowed back on until the following year.

* Members signing up for golf will be automatically put on the dinner or lunch reservation list and pay for the whole day at sign-in. Members who play golf and do not attend the meeting for any reason will be reprimanded: 1st Offense - letter from the President; 2nd Offense - suspension from golf for a period of one year

* As a courtesy, reservations for golf that can not be kept should be canceled ASAP.

* Members will be allowed to sponsor guests at regular meetings provided they are in attendance. A member may sponsor one (1) guest for golf per meeting. Members may sponsor more than one guest for lunch or dinner.

* MAAGCS members at a hosting club will be comped for lunch or dinner reservations. The hosting club will be responsible for their guests as determined prior to reservation deadlines.

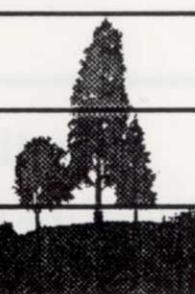
* **Shorts are proper attire for the golf course only!** Stated attire must be worn during the educational and social portions of each meeting.

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News & Notes

New Members

Class A

Gus Novotny	Rocky Gorge Golf
Ken Pepple, CGCS	Turf Valley Resort & CC

Class C

Mario Godino	Fairway Hills Golf Course
Robert Romney	The Suburban Club
Bryan Schiller	Beechtree Golf Club

Class F

Donald Turner	T. A. Turner Construction
Efrain Martinez	T. A. Turner Construction
Al Sonchen	Jade Run Turf Farms
Gary Lucks	Horsey Turf Farms

Condolences

To the family and friends of Dean Snyder upon the passing of his step mother Florence Snyder.

To the family and friends of Byron Lash upon the passing away of his father Edgar L. Lash.

Congratulations

To Blaine Oxyer and his wife Kelly upon the birth of their son, Dillon Jacob.

To Steve Gross and his wife Heather upon the birth of their daughter, McKensie Maureen.

To Tom Mynaugh and his wife upon the birth of their daughter, Alexandra.

To Erik Larsson and his wife Christy upon the birth of their son Andrew.

To Jeff Vance and his new bride Cindy upon their marriage May 28th.

To Jeff Wahl and his new bride Theresa upon their marriage June 5th.

Get Well Wishes

To Louis White.

To Hannah Dietrich, daughter of Donn Dietrich recovering from surgery.

To John A. Newcomb, Jr., son of John Newcomb, CGCS recovering from recent surgery.

To the son of John Haley, recovering from recent surgery.

Reroutings

Mark Berry is now at Newark Country Club

Brian Biliecki is now at Springwood Golf Club

Chris Dieter is now with Ryan Corporation

Steve Gross is now at Royal Oak Golf Course

Nathanial Guldseth is now at Evergreen Country Club

Guy McDonald is now at Andrew AFB Golf Courses

Mark Menusan is now at Greystone Golf Course

John Stevens is now at CC of Swan Creek

Tom Tokarski is now at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links

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Bill Shirk, CGCS recently completed his recertification.

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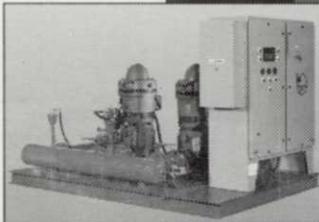


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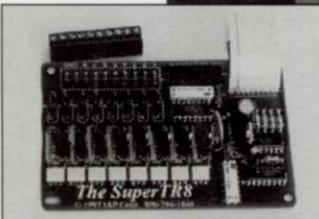
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Safety on the Golf Course: the proper prospective

Despite reports to the contrary, researchers indicate golfers should not be alarmed by the application of plant protectant materials on golf courses.

"Any discussion of health concerns must be based on accurate data," says Jeff Nus, PhD., director of research for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). "Any discussion must also include an accurate portrayal of risk."

According to Nus, safety begins with the professional responsible for the application of materials on the golf course, the golf course superintendent. Those in charge of treating golf courses, must, by law be trained and licensed, and their operations are subject to inspection. He notes application of plant protectants in excessive amounts and frequency is not only fiscally irresponsible, but unhealthy for turfgrass as well. Nus explains that golf course superintendents monitor the drying process to allow golfers access to

the course.

"Research has shown that once the pesticide dries on the leaf of the turfgrass plant, you really can't just casually brush it off, says Clark Throssell, Ph.D, and co-director of Purdue University's Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center. "To get any pesticide at all you have to take a rough cloth and vigorously rub the grass leaf. Obviously, no one out playing golf is going to do that in the course of a round. As we take another look at these pesticides, overall we're finding that they provide almost no risk for casual exposure to levels that would be of any concern."

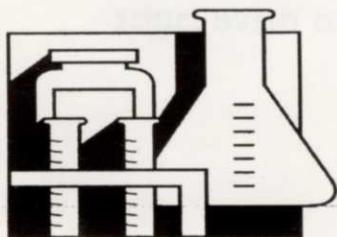
Christopher Borgert, Ph.D., a toxicologist who has served as an advisor to the federal government on toxicity testing for pesticides and industrial chemicals, points to the previous research that indicates those who apply chemicals for their livelihood do not suffer a greater degree

of health problems that the normal population. Common sense suggests that these individuals are more highly exposed than golfers.

"From a personal standpoint, exposure to chemicals on the golf course under normal circumstances is certainly not something I would worry about," Borgert says. "My personal viewpoint is relevant because my family and I live next to a golf course. Any concern for hormonal disruption is unfounded. It is not supported by the available data or sound reasoning."

All agree, however, that the golfer bears some responsibility to make the golf experience as healthy as possible. Golfers should not put tees in their mouths, lick golf balls or put cigars or cigarettes in contact with the ground. Common sense should be rule in making contact in any outdoor environment, including the golf course.

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Superintendents Speak

What did you feel is the most important piece of knowledge that you can pass on to your Assistant?

"I believe the most important thing to teach assistants is to always use common sense in approaching this business and its problems. Don't be afraid to seek advice, no one has all the answers."

Russ Davis

Beechtree Golf Club

"The ability to communicate with club members and officials is the best piece of advice I could give."

Jim McHenry

Caroline Country Club

"I try to teach my assistants the responsibilities needed to maintain a facility. It is a big transition from the golf course worker to the manager of a facility."

Steve Cohoon, CGCS
Heritage

"Surround yourself with the best people possible, and treat all of them with courtesy and respect. Quickly eliminate problem employees, they kill moral. Work smart at creating a solid team atmosphere. Do the little things for the staff, like remembering birthdays, cookouts, and fun outings away from work. If you gain your employee's respect you will get cooperation and exceptional effort. A responsible staff will be the key to your success as an individual and as a superintendent."

Jeff Michel, CGCS

Mount Vernon Country Club

"I would encourage my assistant to become a good personnel manager."

Jim Weaver



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A Superintendent's Responsibility

by Glenn Bereiter, Aldeen Golf Course

The longer anyone is in this profession as a golf course superintendent, the more their responsibilities increase. When I began in this business, my mentors would remind me almost daily that a golf course superintendent is the problem solver of the club. Ours was the only department with the resources and the knowledge to handle most problems that surface within the club. We are agronomists, managers, consultants, educators, teachers, electricians, carpenters, inventors, etc., etc., etc. I'm sure we could all add more things to the list, but for the purpose of this article, I would like to concentrate on the educator/teacher responsibility of our positions.

As we began our journey to our present positions, we were educated to maintain a golf course; and we know that "they don't teach you everything you need to know in school." We are constantly learning how to improve our courses, the environment, communication skills and employee relations. One of the most important relationships is that one between the superintendent and the assistant.

We all remember our first assistant superintendent position: learning the day-to-day operation of a golf course throughout the entire year; storing up the information that the superintendent had learned from years of experience; watching the decision-making process first-hand and even being involved in those decisions; knowing that whatever the outcome, the

superintendent had to live with the consequences; and moving from one assistant superintendent position to another and learning an altogether different style of golf course maintenance, but providing the same results.

One thing that makes golf course maintenance fascinating is the many different styles of management; no two golf courses are maintained exactly alike. That is why being an assistant at a number of golf courses is important. One can draw on the superintendent's knowledge and style to formulate your own style of maintenance. I always tell my interns and assistants that you can learn from any situation, good or bad, or more importantly, how to handle a situation or how not to!

In my opinion, in order for the assistant/superintendent relationship to succeed, a set of guidelines needs to be stated and agreed upon. From the superintendent, we must: **RESPECT** their previous experience, education, and professional goals. **COMMUNICATE** with them, the same way you expect communication from the golf pro, general manager, or any other club official. Train them in the intricacies of golf course management, teaching them what they haven't learned in school. Prepare them with assigning **RESPONSIBILITY** to carry out daily tasks and to manage the crew in the superintendent's absence. **TRUST** their judgement and abilities. Provide **EDUCATION** as members in local associations, GCSAA, and attending seminars and conferences. Give them **HONESTY**

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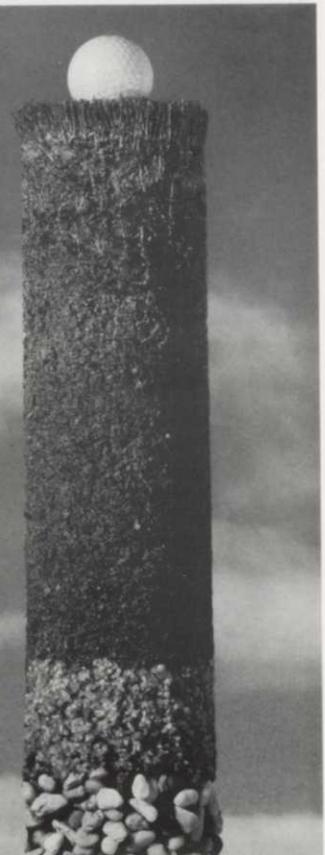
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Responsibility

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with regard to performance and evaluation. Finally, and possibly most important, is FLEXIBILITY. Allow the assistant the opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them. All too often we don't give an assistant the opportunity to fail; and consequently, we never give them the opportunity to succeed.

In turn, from the assistant superintendent, I expect: TRUST in the decisions we make that they will be handled as we agreed, or in some cases, as assigned. DEDICATION to the high standards I expect and our patrons demand. WILLINGNESS to learn, record experiences, and work long, hard hours. Being the first one to work in the morning and the last one to leave in the evening. RESPECT for my experience and training and in following the decisions we ultimately come to. CONFIDENTIALITY for information of club officials or members that could be construed in different ways. An EXEM-

PLARY employee for all staff to imitate. A PROFESSIONAL in the way they approach their job, other employees, members or patrons, and association gatherings. The assistant must want to LEARN. All too often assistants come to us thinking that they have all the answers and know how to handle any situation when, in reality, they do not.

Earlier I mentioned communication from superintendent to assistant, but it is also true from assistant to superintendent. Remember in order to communicate, someone must be LISTENING for proper instruction and plan of action. The number of students entering the marketplace yearly are making quality assistant positions scarce. It is common for a club to receive fifty or more applicants for a job opening. We are in a competitive market here, and it seems to be tightening as time goes by. There is no "fast track" to a superintendent position any more, and it is up to us to train our employees properly to give them every opportunity available to succeed in this position.

Credit: On Course, March 1999

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The Ultimate "Golf Widow"

by Peg Czerkies

I knew what I was getting myself into. It was 1978 when he went straight from the prom to Cog Hill without first going home to sleep, and I knew. You see, it was already 3 a.m., and he couldn't be late for work. In another two hours, he should be changing cups, mowing greens, etc., and otherwise beginning to learn this trade that would consume life eternally. As a golf course superintendent's wife, I consider myself lucky in a lot of ways. It takes an ambitious man to put in the kind of hours that he does. Sending him out to spend the day doing something he hated in order to support his family would be a tremendous guilt trip on me. Instead, he is doing what he loves to do and is constantly rewarded by the progress he sees. From April to November, he is there to see results, seven days a week.

As you know, any wife of a superintendent has to deal with her husband sacrificing family time in order to be at his golf course making sure everything runs smoothly. It's not only his job on the line, it is also his name in the business. Any of you who have gotten married in the summer and now have to spend all of your anniversaries at home, know what I mean! If any of your children were born in the summer, I hope you had loving, caring people around to help out. Getting your husband to take time off during the golf season for ANYTHING (besides

actually getting to play golf), it totally impossible. That family camping trip when the kids are out of school is virtually nonexistent, unless you're taking them yourself. This is not a bad idea. We have built some really great memories over the years.

The fact is, if I want to have a life in the summer, I'm on my own, because my husband is always going to be at work. There is a positive side to his work schedule, though. Because his day begins and ends so early, he is able to spend time with the kids.

We wives see very little of our husbands during "the season". You really have to work hard at creating quality time. Unless you're one of those wonderful women who gets up before the crack of dawn to make breakfast for her man, the first time you see him will be after work. This can be dangerous. He is tired, grumpy and stressed out. He wants to eat, take a shower, and he's hoping he can get "Seinfeld" in before he falls asleep. Don't let this "end of day" image become who he is to you. He must be pleasant sometime during the day, or he wouldn't have a job. Here are a few tips I have discovered.

I suggest shocking him in the morning with a fresh pot of coffee and a smiling face (caution: I don't do this very often. If I spoil him, I'd be locked into getting up every day). He won't



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Golf Widow

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know what to think, and we might even strike up a conversation. If I want to talk to him at all, I never turn on the weather channel. He would be glued to it like he was the Super Bowl. Superintendents watch it obsessively; with their weather radios, weather computers, and every scientific toy on the market, nothing replaces the weather channel. "It changes every ten minutes, you know!" The only thing that challenges the weather channel on TV is sports. It is also the only thing that makes me thankful that he has chosen the weather channel to watch instead.

If breakfast doesn't work, or if it works so that that I want more time with him, I like to invade this world for lunch. Seeing him in his element is quite an experience, especially if he has a crew to boss around. You can also learn some Spanish that they don't teach in high school. I can see first hand what kind of insanely busy day he has facing him every time he wakes up. Not that I don't appreciate that now, but seeing it really helps me to be a little nicer to him when he comes home. He really doesn't just ride around the golf course in his cart all day.

These are the ways I get to see the different facets of my husband's personality and confirm that during this hectic season of work, there is, in fact, still some beauty left in the beast. I wouldn't recommend getting into his world too often; it is still his turf (no pun intended). They work so hard during the golf

season, it is amazing to me that they still know who we are at the end of it all. When people ask if my husband works in the winter, I tell them "just barely, he only works forty hours a week then!"

There is a definite difference between a "regular" golf widow and a superintendent's wife. Golfers don't go back at night to make sure the course is still there. Our husbands do. When golfers are not on the course, they are at work. Even when our husbands are working, they are on the golf course. At least, ordinary golf widows can learn how to play, or just drive the cart, and maybe spend some time with the man they married. We can do that too, I believe it pays to learn how you can include yourself into this time spent working.

For example, if he has to go back at night, I see what I can do to help. Helping him with the routine tasks lets him know that his work is interesting to me, and it can be fun. I'll ask him to demonstrate his irrigation system for me. He seems to be very proud of his water pipes. If we're lucky, we get to see some non-paying, freeloading, after-hours, walk-on golfer get hit with 20,000 pounds of water pressure. Life's little rewards are all in his day's work. If you really want him to admit he needs you, get his Border Collie to fall in love with you. Man's best friend is she who can handle his dog!

OK. I was hired. I fell in love with this dog faster than he fell in love with me. The Park District hired me to travel to various parks and chase geese with Mick, the dog. It was either I take the job, or let some stranger work with him in the parks, thereby

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Golf Widow

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confusing my precious pup even further with three people to have to take orders from. I really has been great, though. If you have ever seen these dogs work, it is quite a rush. When picking up my dog from the golf course to do my park route, I have learned a few things about life in the golf course workplace:

1. Most of the money won on a golf course is not betting on your game. It is betting whether or not it takes that novice golfer less than 10 shots to make it to the green.
2. You don't have to speak Spanish to communicate with your crew. Slow, broken English with a heavy Ricky Ricardo accent will do nicely.
3. The most vile and contemptuous creatures on earth are those pesky honkers (geese, not golfers). They make a mess every eight minutes, and they know how to play head games with your dog.

Being an "ultimate golf widow" sometimes has advantages. It teaches me to be independent. I also love knowing that my husband's job is to nurture a little piece of the earth. I have learned to appreciate his work through the beauty of the golf course. It is incredible the way the moon can shine through the trees and beam onto the strip of green velvet that is the fairway,

and the gift of a perfect green cannot be described. All this means that Mother Nature is on her throne, and Kevin is happy. His golf course truly is his Emerald City, and he is the Wizard. The Wizard: you know the man responsible for all the magic, yet still the man behind the curtain who on one pays any attention to?

When I think of what he goes through during a season, it makes it much easier to let him go on his convention alone. He need time to be on his own without having to answer to anyone but himself. He's earned it! It's funny though, when I go with him, the convention is work, work, work. It's only when I stay home that he seems to have the really big fun. It was easy to be resentful of him when we had very little ones at home. Again, this is where I had to make my own fun. Now, my kids and I usually head north to ski at convention time! It's much better to trade stories when you get back together than to hear about all the fun you missed.

The game of golf has been very good to us. At 17, I fell in love with a blonde kid on the high school golf team. It was then that I knew that I would someday be married to a golf course superintendent. I pray that his career doesn't turn him into an old man before his time. I knew what I was getting myself into when, on your first date, he turned to me and asked, "Want to see where I work?" I've always known, and I have not regrets.

Credit *On Course*, July, 1998

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President Cup Champions Mike Evans(center) and Larry Ringer (right) of Country Club at Woodmore are presented the trophy by Walter Montross, CGCS



Host Superintendent Steve Potter, CGCS of Woodholme Country Club



Mike Legere, CGCS and Dave Anderson, CGCS contemplate how to make a hole-in-one in order to win a new car.

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March Seminar Hailed Success By Attendees

There were forty attendees signed up for the MAAGCS March Seminar, "Creating an Environmental Plan". Included in the list of registrants were golf course superintendents, general managers, affiliate members, and county environmental planners. The seminar was a success even though it was shortened due to the only significant snowfall of the season.

JoEllen Zeh, the seminar speaker, from the Audubon International is responsible for reviewing all Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs presented by golf courses across the U.S. and Canada. Ms. Zeh discussed the steps required for a golf course to receive Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status and participated in some lively conversations with superintendents on the realities of implementing some of these requirements. The general consensus of all those attending was being certified as a Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course is an attainable goal. Many of the requirements are practiced every day and only need to be documented.

This was the first seminar ever held to specifically instruct individuals on how to acquire certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. MAAGCS has forwarded a suggestion to the GCSAA Education Department to consider this seminar as part of their educational program.

Many thanks are due to Dean Graves for his help in contacting Ms. Zeh and his input in outlining the seminar. Also thanks to our sponsors, Egypt Farms, Finch Turf Equipment, Green Meadows Turf Supply, Newsome Seed, Turf Equipment and Supply, G. L. Cornell, Rhone-Poulenc, and Zeneca. Without the generous support of these companies the seminar would not have been possible.

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April Meeting Recap Fountain Head CC

Mike Farrar from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency talked to MAAGCS members about the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. This new approach from the EPA to involve the end users of pesticides was discussed in length in the last issue of Turfgrass Matters. Mr. Farrar charged the sixty-one members present to become involved in the program in order to keep the regulators informed of how their decisions can affect our profession. Thanks to Mike for his interest in the golf course superintendent. It is nice to have someone at a high level in the EPA who we as superintendents can approach and will listen to our concerns and problems.

Ken Keller and the staff at Fountain Head did a great job and our hats are off to them for their efforts. And as usual the day would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. We are grateful for their continued interest in providing the MAAGCS members with quality education. The April meeting sponsors were: Ace Trees, Egypt Farms, Finch Turf Equipment, Newsome Seed, Turf Equipment & Supply and Zeneca.

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