

TURFGRASS MATTERS

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A Year in the Life of a Golf Course Dog

by Clay Craft

Golf courses face a number of challenging maintenance tasks. One problem that has drawn the attention of golfers is the mess left by Canada Geese. Populations of federally protected Canada geese have become a major topic of discussion. Recently, a short resident Canada goose hunting season has been implemented in Delaware, but this has done little to curb populations on many local golf courses. There are several management techniques that are used for combating goose problems, and none are absolute. I will focus on the use of dogs, especially Border Collies, to chase off Canada Geese on the course. The purpose of this article will be to inform you of what is involved in the care and training of a Border Collie in your quest to manage goose problems at your facility. I can provide a first hand view of what I have gone through in caring for and training my 14 month old Border Collie, Marley, at Cripple Creek Golf and CC near Bethany Beach, DE.

The Problem

Increasing resident Canada goose populations at our facility forced us to devise a management plan to reduce their numbers. There are many reasons that they are not a desired wildlife on the property. The first reason is the incredible amount of waste that they produce. The average Canada goose will deposit one and a half pounds of waste per day. You can only imagine the amount of goose waste produced daily, even in a relatively small population of 20 to 30 geese. The second problem is the fearlessness of the resident birds. With very few natural predators and a limited hunting season the geese will continue to stay in the same place



and nest year after year. The offspring called "goslings" then stay on the property and produce offspring of their own the following year. If left unchecked only a few Canada geese will become many in just a few years. This problem is compounded by the abundance of green foliage to eat on the course, and the compulsion of some people to feed them.

The Solution

Several approaches can be used to manage these birds. Use of repellent sprays will work, but this can be offensive to golfers, especially in this age of pesticide paranoia. Superintendent Bob Collins, CGCS tried the rope around the pond method with little success. After discussing the option of a Border Collie with Bob, he gave me the OK in March of 2000. I had little trouble finding a nine week-old pup within a few days, and named her Marley. Marley began coming to work with me immediately and going home with me at night. I paid for the dog,

because if I ever leave the facility I will take her with me. These are loyal and extremely social dogs that need human interaction at all times. If their master ever leaves them there is a good chance that the dog will become worthless for work. Some courses will provide a nice place for the dog to stay in the shop or a well insulated dog house. This is the case when the golf course budget is used for the purchase and care of the dog. In my case I purchased the dog and paid for vet bills as the initial startup costs. My golf facility now pays for the food and some other small costs associated with her upkeep.

Training

Some training should begin immediately if you are to train the dog yourself, although some people find it easier and more convenient to send the dog off for training. In my case I trained the dog by myself. I did attend a basic obedience training class, which is usually available through local kennel clubs or private trainers. The Border Collie

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President's Message

Chris Ayers, CGCS



What a busy time this has been in the Mid-Atlantic. In June there were four meetings that members had the option to attend. My thanks go out to: Brian Zickafoose, host superintendent at Maryland National Golf Course, and Nick Vance, CGCS for the meeting held in the Western Maryland area, Atlantic Golf, Tom Tokarski and John Newcomb, CGCS who hosted the meeting held at Queenstown Harbor on the Eastern Shore, Brian Finger and the folks at Summit Hall and Ken Ingram, CGCS and Bretton Woods for hosting the Washington area members, and finally, to all of the members involved with the Baltimore Turfgrass Group that arranged the meeting at the Paint Branch Research Facility. The idea of multiple June meetings was an experiment. I had hoped to encourage greater participation by providing easier access and non-traditional topics, but I am not sure those goals were achieved. Therefore, in September we will be returning to the time honored tradition of one MAAGCS meeting site per month. As soon as the details can be worked out, you will be notified of the particulars for September's gathering.

July brought the MAAGCS Annual Picnic and the MAAGCS Family Day at

Camden Yards. The picnic was well attended and we hope to make Mayo Beach a permanent site for this event for many years to come. Again, my thanks go out to Lou Rudinski for helping the Association secure the Mayo Beach site, John Newcomb, CGCS and the Membership Services Committee for the wonderful job they all did with this successful annual event for the membership and their families. Thanks also, to our many picnic sponsors whose support we value. On July 22nd, several MAAGCS families went to see the Orioles game at Camden Yards. Although the Orioles did not come out on the winning end, I think a fun time was had by all who attended.

By now you should have received your entry to the 2nd Annual Stewards of the Chesapeake Golf Tournament. This event was initiated to raise funds for education, research, and scholarships. I know we can build on last year's success at South River GL and host an equally successful event at Queenstown Harbor GL on August 27th. I encourage all of you to participate and ask you to consider teaming up with your respective club officials and/or commercial members. I look forward to seeing you at Queenstown.



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From the Editor's Desk

Paul Masimore, CGCS

The challenge to produce articles for each issue seems to increase as the turfgrass management season heats up. It has also, been difficult for me to find time to contact newsletter committee members to ask for their input. HELP!

I don't know if the aging process is taking over, my past life in the fast lane is slowing me, or it's just mid-season burnout. For some strange reason I find myself a bit more focused on the golf course this summer. Anyone else have that symptom? There must be something one can do for a cure.

I did not attend any of the regional June gatherings, so I missed out on opportunities to gather topics for the newsletter from the members in attendance. I understand those who did attend June gatherings enjoyed themselves.

Oh well, enough whining and moaning. As always, I hope you find something of interest in this edition.

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Marley, *continued from page 1*

is an amazing dog to work with when training. They pick up things much faster than most breeds. Marley was house broken in about a week (10 weeks old). Other basic commands were also learned quickly, such as sit, down, and shake.

Once the basic obedience is learned you can get to the important things. For the dog to interact with golfers without distracting them while they play is the first lesson. Don't let them play with golf balls for starters. You can imagine someone's reaction if a dog runs off with their ball as they line up a 3 foot birdie putt. Border Collies are quiet dogs that don't bark much. This is a desired attribute that fits in well on the golf course. Teach the dog the property boundaries and let them know where they are not allowed. A good tool to use is a whistle. If you teach them to stop and return at your whistle, it could save their life some day.

Strategy

Resident populations of Canada geese have become a problem for Cripple Creek, though not yet a major one. Discouraging their presence is how our program could best be described. In the past, canoes and kayaks were employed to try to harass the birds. Also, they have been captured and removed from time to time. However, our persistence in the endeavor has always waned as the season became busier, and likewise, the population increased at a time when manpower was at a premium.

As we have not yet been able to train Marley to mow rough

(and Bob has threatened to do so), she was able to keep up with the geese throughout the spring. Despite busy golf schedules, maintenance practices, and neighbors feeding the flock, Marley's efforts have kept the population to about twenty birds; not bad for a course that has over 20 acres of water spread out over eleven of its eighteen holes.

A Fixture

Marley has also become one of the favorites around the course. She is welcomed in the clubhouse (Chef Charles often finds great treats for her), plays soccer with the pro shop staff and is always up for throwing a football around the Maintenance Yard at quitting time. She accompanies me when I play golf in the afternoons. At first, I was hesitant about taking her while I played, but this has actually helped discouraged the geese because they had grown to associate my gasoline cart with Marley. Now, they do not know if any group of golfers could mean persistent harassment. Bob and some of the members have enjoyed playing a round with Marley!

Because she is a house pet, I do not have the embarrassing scenes that "kennel dogs" sometimes have with strangers. She has never snarled nor bit anyone. Like many house pets, she thinks she is a "people" and is completely comfortable around them. She especially likes to visit Mike Eder on the Lesco Truck and jump on USGA Agronomist Darin Bevard's clean golf slacks. She is accepted as part of our golfing community.

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Putting Greens in the Shade: Tough Environment!

Dr. Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., The Ohio State University

Maintaining cool season turfgrasses in shaded areas is one of the most challenging aspects of turf management a golf course superintendent can face, especially if the shaded areas are annual bluegrass/creeping bentgrass greens. What makes maintaining greens difficult in shade is that how the turf grows in shade is entirely different than how it grows in full sun. Maintaining greens in shade requires an understanding of the environmental and growth changes that occur to turf when developing a management program.

The most noticeable environmental change on shaded greens is the reduction in light. Light is necessary for plants to carry on photosynthesis (the conversion of radiant energy into a usable form, ATP). Thus, shaded plants do not have the carbohydrate (how the energy, ATP, is stored) reserves as do plants growing in full sun. In addition, the quality of light the turf is receiving changes and is of poor quality. Light quality refers to the proportions of particular

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wavelengths within the light spectrum. The wavelengths of blue, red, and to some extent green provide energy for photosynthesis while far-red triggers morphological responses. Changes in proportion of red to far-red changes how a plant grows as well as its health. In shade there is an excess of far-red in comparison to red, which results in plants producing thin, delicate leaves with a rapid vertical growth. A poor root system is associated with these plants. The combination of reduced photosynthesis, and more succulence, makes shaded plants more susceptible to traffic and disease.

Besides the reduction in light quantity

and changes in light quality, the microenvironment is considerably different than what is found on a sunny green. Shaded greens have reduced airflow that promotes higher humidity levels. High humidity reduces the evapotranspiration (ET) rate, and thus the cooling of the turf. Shaded greens tend to remain wetter than those that are exposed to air movement. High summertime temperatures combined with wet humid conditions are not conducive to turfgrass growth, especially at low heights of cut.

Below are some general precautions for your shaded greens, realizing that each green situation is different and not all suggestions are feasible or applicable.

Mowing considerations:

̄ Raise the mowing height (if possible). Traffic or wear stress is a significant problem on greens under stress (lack of tillering, growth, etc. reduces the ability of the turf to

continued on page 7

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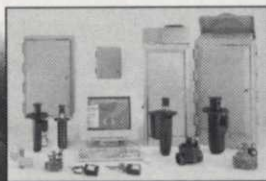
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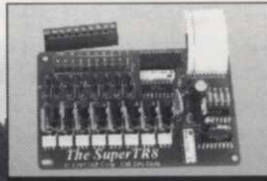
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Shade, *continued from page 9*

withstand or recover from traffic). Raising the height increases the wear tolerance of the turf.

- Switch to solid rollers. On shaded greens, grooved or Weihley rollers cause wear/stress damage to the turf.
- Minimize the period "stuff" is left on the green. Clippings or heavy topdressing left on the greens can contribute to heat build-up. Topdress lightly so that the material gets quickly worked in by a quick watering or brushing.
- If you are using triplexes for greens mowing, you may want to explore the option of using walk behind mowers on the few shaded/problem greens (again this reduces wear).
- Stagger cleanup patterns or skip occasionally. Wear normally shows on cleanup patterns of the green. In addition, throttle down the mower on cleanups to minimize "sliding" around corners, which causes excessive wear on the turf.
- Minimize turning mowers on collars. Considerable wear and damage occurs to collars where the mowers are turned or spun around. Turn, if possible, on the higher cut turf.
- Try to scatter golf and equipment traffic entering and exiting a green. Concentrated traffic patterns are normally the first to show plant stress.
- If growth slows or recovery is slow (a good sign is how rapidly ball marks recover), frequency of rolling should be reduced to minimize wear.

Irrigation

- Avoid overwatering greens in shade. Generally the evapotranspiration (ET) rates are lower in shaded environments resulting in a wetter condition. A wet condition favors disease and also reduces the wear tolerance of the turf and increases the potential for compaction. Wet conditions can also promote black layer. You may want to water the problem greens by hand to avoid excessive moisture.
- Check the irrigation heads to make sure they are turning. Often times problems

show up with heads when the turf severely wilts around the head. During the summer stress period, this is not the best time to detect if a head is not turning.

- Check soil moisture levels. Periodically, using a soil probe to visually evaluate the soil moisture levels is a good routine practice.

Fertilization

Fertilization suggestions are difficult to make but below are a few general recommendations.

- On shaded greens that are beginning to thin, avoid the temptation to apply nitrogen at rates to promote recovery and "filling-in". Excessive rates of nitrogen can actually make the situation worse. When fertilizing apply more frequently and at reduced rates to minimize burning.
- Iron and potassium should be used to provide color and some enhanced wear tolerance to the turf.

Disease/Stress Control Through Fungicides:

(A product's name is used for convenience

purposes. Other products may be just as suitable).

- Preventative fungicide programs on shaded greens are effective. Often times when greens are declining and no visible disease symptoms are present, sample analysis shows the presence of "non-pathogenic" Pythium and Rhizoctonia species. Our work has shown the use of fungicides that control these pathogens enhances the quality of turf even when pathogenicity of the organisms present cannot be demonstrated.
- Applying a Pythium fungicide (ex. Signature®) in combination with a Rhizoctonia fungicide (Daconil Ultrex®) on a 14-day schedule starting prior to the stress time has provided better quality turf than waiting for decline to occur (using recommended rates). Chipco 26GT® in place of Daconil Ultrex® has worked well also. Fore® is often used in combination with Signature® or Aliette® with success, however Fore® is not effective on dollar spot like Daconil Ultrex® or Chipco26GT®. If algae is a concern Daconil Ultrex® or Fore® are effective controls.

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IAC Report

Dave Cammarota

By the time you read this, our committee will have met with the Mid-Atlantic BOD, yet again with input from a cross section of our commercial affiliates (Class F). In last month's issue of *Turfgrass Matters*, Wayne Evans posted an article pointing out that through expanded communication, this organization will continue to thrive and that the involvement of the commercial affiliates in the decision-making process can only improve its effectiveness. He gave a few examples of how that process works, but, I would like to expand upon his comments with a thought of my own.

Many members of the Mid-Atlantic feel that making commercial affiliates part and parcel of the policy making leg of this organization is a move in the wrong direction. I know that in my father's day it was a strong feeling among his peers. But, as Wayne pointed out, this

industry is ever changing, and the Mid-Atlantic must not stagnate in its thinking, but rather move forward by taking further advantage of its commercial affiliates.

In 1988, I began another phase of my career by taking on a position in sales, something I gave little thought to as I progressed through 23 years on the other side of the desk. At that particular time, to my recollection, there were no other Class F members who came from the field. In 1989 Wayne Evans left Indian Spring C.C. and began his new career in sales, and in 1991, Sam Kessel, after over 25 years at the C.C. of Fairfax, soon followed with his new sales position. Since the early '90's, a steady flow of ex-golf course superintendents have followed, and today many individuals whose membership cards reflected Class A, B, or C status, now retain memberships in Class F. I don't believe any one of us has a desire to change the ownership or identity of this organization; we do, however, desire to provide viable input into the policies established by the leadership. In recognition of these recent changes occurring

within the ranks of its members, the leadership of the Mid-Atlantic, under the direction of then President Mike Gilmore, established the formation of this committee. Subsequent to that, President Walter Montross, CGCS in one of his articles, pointed out that, "for far too long this organization has ignored the reality that 33% of its membership constitutes the Class F designation; a heretofore untapped resource." It is NOT unfair to say that many within the ranks of Class F membership can far better relate to the Class A, B or C status than vice versa. No one should feel overwhelmed by changes occurring within the Mid-Atlantic; it is a natural result of growth.

In January 2002, a couple of us will step down from our positions as advisors on the IAC, and new commercial affiliates will replace us, bringing with them some new ideas, which will reflect further change. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the board for allowing me to give something back to an industry which has provided for my family and me for many years.

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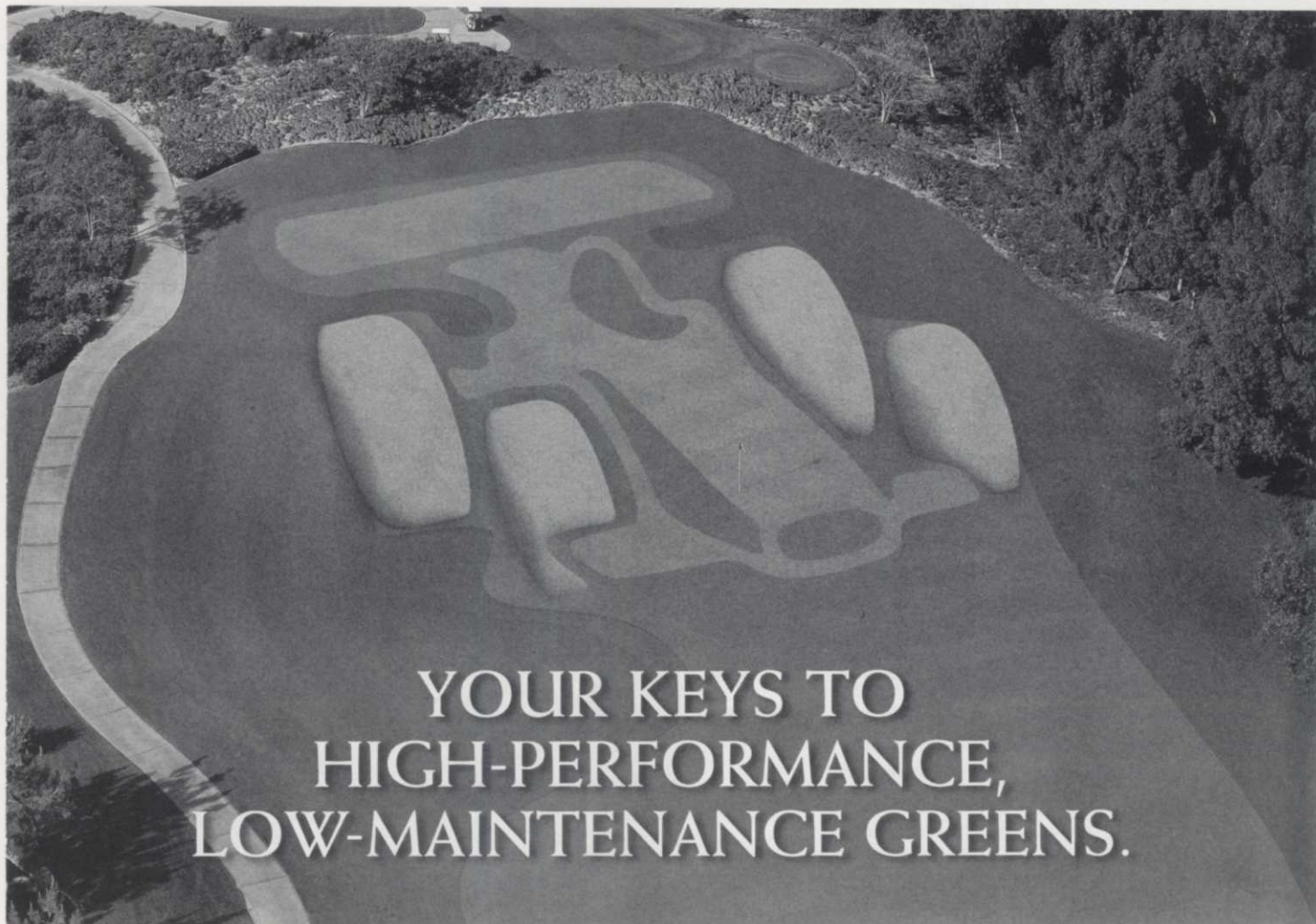
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Annual Picnic Highlights July Schedule

By John A. Newcomb Sr. CGCS

On July 10th, the MAAGCS held its annual picnic at Mayo Beach, an Anne Arundel County park just outside of Annapolis, Maryland. This year's picnic was moved to July to accommodate the *Stewards of the Chesapeake* Golf Tournament which has become our annual August meeting. Approximately, 150 adults and 50 children attended this year's picnic and fun was had by all. Participants were treated to 14 bushels of crabs, secured by Ben Stagg along with corn on the cob supplied by Egypt Farms and cooked by "master chef" Dave Cammarota. Pulled pork barbecue and pot luck entries from picnickers also highlighted the meal. Children were once again treated to many activities including a moon bounce, pony rides, and Mandy the Clown along with swimming in the Chesapeake Bay.

As the chairman of the picnic, I would like to mention and thank all of the sponsors and volunteers that worked this year's event and helped make it a success. The set up crew included Larry Cosh of Finch Turf and two members of my crew, Rick Maranto and Ray Walker. My grill men were Tom Walsh of York Distributors, Mike Wannemacher and Eric Lassen from Turf Equipment and Supply Co. and Bob Clements of G.L.Cornell Co. The clean up crew consisted of several of the volunteers above along with Dave Thomas of Newsom Seed and Paul Schultheis of Finch Turf. Finally, I would like to thank all of the participants of this year's picnic who either brought food and/or helped clean up at the end of the day.

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Wayne Watkins, Charles Poole and Steve Evans enjoy crabs.



Mike Wannemacher grill chief for the day.



Dave Nehila and family enjoy a day at the beach.

News & Notes

New Members

Class A	
Stephen McKisson	Virginia Golf Academy
Carol Offenbacher	Carper's Valley Golf Club
Class B	
Jay Nalls	Norbeck Country Club
Steve Thomas	Oak Creek Golf Club
Class C	
John Beauregard	Woodholme Country Club
David Pakard	Beechtree Golf Club
Elizabeth Reese	P. B. Dye Golf Club
Class F	
Jose' Casaola	Nutramax Laboratories
Jeffrey Everhart	Lofts Seed
Theodore Huhn	BASF Corp.
Robert Kerr	Clery Chemical

Re-routings

Ken Braun is now with Eco Soil Systems
Houston Frey is now at Mill Quarter Plantation GC
Tom Tellier is now with Prime Business Leasing
Keith Williams is now at Cross Creek Golf Club

Congratulations

To **Allen and Carrie Bohrer** upon the arrival of a daughter
 Haley Elizabeth.

Get Well Wishes

To the mother of **Steve Evans** due to a recent illness
 To the mother of **Dean Graves** after recent surgery

Condolences

To **Jim Halley** upon the passing of his grandmother
 To **Bill Neus** upon the passing of his mother
 To **Tom Schemmel** upon the passing of his father

Student News

2001-2002 Maryland Student Chapter Officers

President	Matthew Voluse
Vice President	Ryan Palsgrove
Secretary	Mike Aunchman
Treasurer	Jed Vail

Congratulations to the following MAAGCS Student Members who graduated for the IAA:

Harry S. Evans	Brandon Fouche
Richard H. Jones	Greg T. Shoemaker

Congratulations to John Cory Kaufman who graduated from the Department of Natural Resources and Landscape Architecture.

??????????

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Four Regional Meetings Held in June

The first of the June regional meetings took place at Maryland National Golf Course. Brian Zickafoose served as tour guide to MAAGCS members who were interested in seeing a course during the different phases of construction. On good authority, golfers will need to be in good shape to walk a round of golf on this course. After the tour those in attendance gathered for dinner at a local restaurant.

On June 13th at the Paint Branch Research Facility, hosted by the BTG, Dr. Mathias showed us the latest in microscopic technology. Dr. Turner led us through fairway and roughgrass trials and Dr. Dernoeden spoke about putting green bentgrass. There was a lot of new and useful information learned by all. A big thank you to the big three Drs. for spending time with us and showing us around such a wonderful new facility. Afterwards, a major barbecue was enjoyed by over seventy people. Steve

Potter grilled up his special sauce laden ribs that were fantastic, while Joe Herkalo had a long waiting line for his grilled pork and chicken Caesar salads. If you went away hungry or thirsty, you must have fallen asleep or not eaten your steamed crabs fast enough. There was much laughter and enjoyment on this day.

The Eastern Shore regional meeting was hosted by Tom Tokaski at Queenstown Harbor River House. A deli style lunch was served before a "well deserved" lazy afternoon spent networking with peers down on the river's edge.

Several MAAGCS members attended an open house at Summit Hall Turf Farm on June 27th. Brian Finger and Frank Wilmont from Summit Hall hosted our group and described the operation of the oldest and one of the largest turf farms in the country. Dr. Mark Selman from Jacklin Seeds was on hand to show some experimental plots of new ryegrasses, bluegrasses, and tall fescues. The group then had a pic-

nic lunch at nearby Bretton Woods Recreation Center followed by an intensely competitive Putt-Putt golf tournament won by Jim Halley.

Many thanks need to go out to the vendors and hosts that made all of our June meetings a huge success.

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2001 Upcoming Events

August 27th	Stewards of the Chesapeake Queenstown Harbor
September 11th	MAAGCS Chapter Meeting Hope Valley Golf Course
September 18-19th	VTC Field Day Blacksburg, VA
October 9th	Annual Championship Indian Spring Country Club
October 24th	Angie Cammarota Tournament Woodmont Country Club
November 13-15th	Virginia Turfgrass Conference Virginia Beach, VA
November 13th	IAC Elections Raspberry Falls Golf Club
December 11th	MAAGCS Annual Meeting Turf Valley Resort & CC
December 11th	GCSAA Educational Seminar Turf Valley Resort & CC

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The Woodstock Mystery

by David Fairbank

I stood there scrutinizing the home we had purchased in Woodstock, Virginia, knowing full well that it needed a lot of work, most importantly, pressure washing, for sure. The mildew on the shady side of the double garage and on the offset in the front, between the garage and the main part of the house, especially needed deep cleaning. I was certain that the house was cream-colored vinyl siding and not pale yellow as it now appeared, and I hoped that a good cleaning would bear that out. But, as I stood there mulling over what other improvements I could do, my eye was drawn to the thousands of small black dots on the siding, dots the size of a straight pin head. Not only were the dots on the siding but on the white porch railings and roof supports. It almost looked as though someone had shot my house with a shotgun and the resulting patterns. I would estimate four to six dots per square inch. I scraped a few with my fingernail only to have the cap scrape off but the stain underneath remaining. Oh, I had friends tell me fly droppings, and even spider droppings, but, it wasn't until Kelly Day stopped over one evening to give me an estimate for pressure washing the house and rear deck, that the mystery deepened.

As Kelly looked over the house and the deck across the rear of the home, he assured me that he could make the house look much like it did eight years ago when it was new. But, he wouldn't guarantee that the spots on the siding and the porch supports and railings would come off. What in the world is this, I asked, fly or spider droppings? He chuckled at that, no, he replied, it's "shotgun fungus". He assured me that someone from the extension office had told him that was what he was seeing all over the Shenandoah Valley. Well, I was skeptical to be sure of this explanation. I didn't have a phone in the house at this point and couldn't check out the diagnosis on the Internet until I returned to Sterling later in the week. When I did return, to "Yahoo" I went, typed in "shotgun fungus", and there it was, six or eight possible sites to check out. Since one site was a Penn State report, the rest were irrelevant. The report said, common name, "artillery fungus", or "shotgun fungus". Now I don't know about any of you, but, I've been in the green industry since 1957 and I've never run into this phenomenon before, and some older, wiser men than me, never have either. A synopsis of the Penn State report said that certain, but by no means all, hardwood trees that are shredded for "hardwood mulch" are infected. There are certain mulches that will not be infected, i.e., cypress and pine bark to name two. It appears that in infected beds, mainly during the spring and fall, with temperatures between 50 and 68 degrees, the fungus spore masses form and the fruiting body points itself towards strong light sources, such as sun-reflecting glass and light colored buildings and cars. Five hours after the fruiting body forms, it explodes upward and outward with fine droplets of liquid. The velocity of this explosion is 1/10,000 HP, and the drop-

lets land on anything within a 10 to 20 foot radius from the source. I have used shredded hardwood on the golf course since the early 60s and have never seen this, but now that I'm looking, I am seeing it. While at Walter Montross's home, I found signs of some on his porch supports and window shutters. His problem is not of the nature as mine, but, it's there in Vienna as well.

Imagine, for a moment, that Mrs. Schwartz, the wife of the club president, pulls up in front of your clubhouse and parks her car, a "polar white", 2002 Mercedes. She parks it right beside a beautifully landscaped bed, full of beautiful daffodils and tulips. Further, this bed is covered with infected shredded hardwood mulch, to the preferred depth of three inches. Suddenly, just as she enters the clubhouse door, a tremendous explosion occurs, of course, at a velocity of 1/10,000 HP, no one can hear it. After being in the clubhouse office briefly, she returns to find her once, "polar white", 2002 Mercedes, covered with thousands of black specs, probably only on one side though, but, the roof, and trunk will receive the blast too. Let's all hope, for your sake, Mr. Golf Course Superintendent, she doesn't look up this report, or one like it, on the Internet at the following address: <http://aginfo.psu.edu/news/july97/fungus.html>.

By the way, Mr. Schwartz will find out when his wife gets home, that once the liquid has dried on the "polar white" 2002 Mercedes, he will have to have the car repainted...won't he be happy!!!!



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Golf Course Architects Look for Help To Defend Courses Against Technology

Golf Course Architects believe there should be "a line drawn in the sand soon" – at least for tournament golf – or technology could render some courses obsolete.

The Board of Governors of the American Society of Golf Course Architects stated that "it is difficult and sometimes impossible because of land restrictions for architects to design courses that will challenge top players using high-tech golf clubs and balls, and the challenge will grow even more difficult with each passing year. "It is not just an issue for new courses, but for every club that finds its best golf holes rendered defenseless by technology.

As modern golf becomes more of a power game, designers are finding it difficult to create holes that require good players to hit long irons onto the green. In the recent U. S. Open, for instance, players were hitting with two irons on a 490-yard hole – not the driver and long iron intended.

In 1994, the ASGCA issued its original warning on the subject. At that time the Society distributed the White Paper that pointed out that the advancements in golf course maintenance, club design, and ball technology have altered the way the game is played and how courses are designed.

Some Restrictions Needed

Many of the group's most prominent members, including Jack Nicklaus (who received the group's Donald Ross Award during the most recent annual meeting in Columbus) and Pete Dye, have long called for a "tournament ball" that would control distance. Many ASGCA past presidents – including Bobby and Rees Jones, Ed Seay, Art Hills and Geoffrey Cornish – support the call to review technology's impact on the game.

"Technological parameters would enable some of the great traditional courses to continue to host major tournaments," newly-elected ASGCA President Damian Pascuzzo said, "and enable us to design new courses that won't be obsolete in a few years." Longer drives by high handicap

players also are forcing designers to widen corridors to accommodate more pronounced slice and hook shots. "Safety is a real concern," said Pascusso. Pascuzzo added that if technology dictates longer and wider golf courses, it will further escalate land acquisition and maintenance costs.

Longer Courses Discourage Newcomers

"If technology continues to give more distance, it will be impossible for us to design courses that will be a challenge for more than a decade. We're already designing 7,000-yard courses. What's next – 8,000 or 9,000 yards? Or does technology force designers to "trick up" a course in order to defend par? Frankly, we think that the solution is not good for golf," explained Pascuzzo.

The new ASGCS president stressed the fact that golf needs to attract more new players who find the game fun. Research shows that many players drop out because they become discouraged, and Pascuzzo believes that percentage would increase if courses had to be longer and more difficult to challenge better players. "It's becoming increasingly difficult to design a course that all levels of players find interesting," he added. "Many new courses have five or six sets of tees and even that might be enough to satisfy all needs."

Urges More Cooperation for the "Good of the Game"

The ASGCA Board of Governors urges golf's ruling bodies and manufacturers to work more cooperatively so that the game of golf can continue to prosper. "We don't think it's a good idea to have different classes of golf courses – just a handful for the touring pros, certain others that only excellent players can master and then those for the everyday players. Reasonable parameters for clubs and balls will help the great golf courses of America stand up and defend par, as their original designers intended, and that will benefit everyone who enjoys watching players go up against the best in strategic design."

News from the Commonwealth

The Dept. of Environmental Quality adopted two rules that create a Virginia Water Protection (VWP) general permit for 1) wetland impacts resulting from the activities of construction and development projects and 2) activities causing wetland impacts of less than one-half acre. The general permits become effective Oct. 1, 2001. Under the general construction and development permit, an individual is authorized to impact up to two acres of nontidal surface waters, including up to 500 linear feet of perennial stream channel and up to 1,500 linear feet of nonperennial stream channel for general development activities after meeting certain application procedures. The construction or expansion of a recreational facility would be authorized under a VWP general permit according to regulation text. Further, golf course expansions could qualify as a recreational facility provided the construction of the proposed facility would not result in a substantial deviation from the natural contours and the facility was designed to minimize adverse effects on state waters and riparian areas. Individuals would be able to minimize adverse effects on waters and riparian areas from construction activity by including the implementation of integrated pest management plans, adequate stormwater management, vegetated buffers, and fertilizer management plans. Under the general permit for wetland impacts of less than one-half acre, an individual is authorized to impact less than one-half acre of nontidal surface waters including up to 125 linear feet of perennial stream channel and up to 1,500 linear feet of nonperennial stream channel. Golf course developers are still required to obtain an individual VWPP permit for all water withdrawals from surface waters. For a copy of the final rule, go to <http://www.deq.state.va.us/regulations/xwaterregs.html#wetland>.

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