

## Student News



Maryland Student Chapter members, Evans, Kaufman, Newhart and Smith at Turf Bowl Competition

### Another Top Ten Finish!

The University of Maryland Student Chapter team finished 7th for the second year in a row at the Student Turf Bowl Competition held on Friday afternoon at GCSAA's National Convention in Dallas. The level of competition increased over the previous year, with 61 teams versus 47 teams representing turf programs from around the country. It was a great opportunity to see how we measured up to those other students in such areas as turfgrass, weed, insect and disease identification, fertilizer and pesticide calculations, cultural practices, and Latin genus and specific epithets. Dr. Mathias did a great job preparing us for the competition, and we have plans for next year to help in areas such as southern turfgrass and weed identification. We improved our score from last year by over 30 points, and hopefully have established a tradition that can build interest in the years to come! The team was made up of IAA students Steve Evans and Adam Newhart, and 4-year Natural Resource and Landscape Architecture students Cory Kaufman and Kevin Smith.

During our whirlwind three and a half-day tour, we had the opportunity to experience many activities that the GCSAA provided for the students. On Thursday, we went directly to the trade show, we attended a leadership seminar and heard a presentation by current president Tommy Witt, CGCS, and we attended the MAAGCS reception. Friday morning found us at the Innovative Superintendents Breakfast and presentation, followed by a Student Luncheon with a presentation on professionalism by Mark Esoda, CGCS. The Turf Bowl was held for 3+ hours that afternoon, and we unwound

at the Maryland Alumni reception followed by mechanical bull riding by some of our team and Dr. Mathias! Saturday started with the Research Breakfast, a seminar titled "Powering Up" presented by Don Sexton, CCM, CHE, and the highlight of the day, a visit to the Texas A & M research farm and the Ranger's Ballpark. While at the research farm, we got to see cutting edge work by Dr. Milt Engleke and his staff, which included zoysiagrass breeding. Also, a very promising study on a Texas bluegrass and Kentucky bluegrass hybrid that has tremendous drought tolerance, disease resistance, and shade tolerance.

We wish to thank the members of MAAGCS for their monetary support to get our team to Dallas and the tremendous encouragement we received from members. Even though we did not realize our goal of bringing home the Championship, our strong showing reflects favorably on the caliber of the turf and golf course management programs at the University of Maryland. The learning opportunity we received will be invaluable as we continue on our career paths. Thanks for all your support.  
Steve Evans

### VA Tech Finishes Fifth in Dallas

The Turfgrass Club of Virginia Tech tied for 5<sup>th</sup> with Michigan State with 217 points in the GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition in Dallas, TX. This is the highest finish ever by Virginia Tech. The team was comprised of Turf Club President Peter Rappoccio, Alumni Chairman Dean Ratliff, Conference Chairman Kevin Fortune, and Past-President Andrew Green.

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for his 25 years as a Golf Course Superintendent. After earning the remaining points, you are then visited by another Master Greenskeeper to evaluate your course. Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, toured the golf course and reviewed Walter's maintenance programs. Upon successful completion of this second step, you moved on to step three, which is a written examination.

This written portion was administered at the University of Maryland, monitored by Dr. Kevin Mathias. It is a two part, closed book exam. Three hours are allocated for each part of the exam. The first part is a series of five questions that are technical in nature and cover considerable subject matter. The second part is a case scenario, whereby you respond to a series of questions posed concerning how you would deal with a proposed case question. You write your position, then justify your reasoning. When the written examination is completed, it is then mailed back to BIGGA where it is scored by three professors. The examination is given twice a year in March and October.

It took approximately two months for BIGGA to notify Walter that he had successfully completed the program. After being notified, you are then invited to their conference for the official presentation. Now that Walter has received the MG designation, he will be required to assist with ongoing educational issues, possibly speaking at the BIGGA conference and writing articles, to maintain the MG status.

There are only twenty eight Master Greenskeepers in the world, 10 who hold both CGCS and MG status. Of these twenty eight, sixteen of them are Master Greenskeepers in the United Kingdom and two in Germany. This program has been in place since 1987. At the present time, there are approximately 125 people registered in the program.

Other accomplishments of Walter's are his very active memberships with MAAGCS and GCSAA. He served as President of MAAGCS in 1989, 1999 and as President of the Greater Washington GCSA in 1980 and 1981. With GCSAA he has served on the following committees: Career Development, Communications, Education and Par for the Course Resource Group.

Congratulations Walter!!