



President Chris Ayers, CGCS leads a discussion during the meeting at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links.

Focus Groups: MAAGCS in the 21st Century

The Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors held Focus Group meetings in each of the four geographical areas of the Association during the month of January. The first meeting held on the Eastern Shore, was hosted by Tom Tokarski at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links. Chris Ayers, CGCS and Lakewood Country Club hosted the second meeting for those in Suburban Maryland. Rich Sweeney was our host for the third gathering at Bonnie View Country Club located in the Baltimore region. The last stop on this "whistle tour" was with Steve Nash, CGCS at Hidden Creek Country Club in Northern Virginia.

President Chris Ayers, CGCS began each meeting by outlining the major areas the board wished to address during the discussions: Communication, Education, Membership/Participation, Monthly Meetings and an Umbrella Association. Several questions were posed to the groups and discussion ensued. Each meeting lasted approximately two hours followed immediately by lunch. The Board of Directors is now compiling the information gathered and will report to the

membership the outcomes at the April monthly chapter meeting at Beechtree Golf Club in Aberdeen, Maryland.

The Board of Directors wished to thank those members who took the time to participate and contribute to the direction the Association will take during the next few years. MAAGCS will become stronger as more invaluable information and ideas are put forth by the membership. Please make plans to attend the meeting in April.

2001 MAAGCS Dues

Become Delinquent

March 31, 2001

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Charlotte Norris, Executive Secretary

Pesticide Applicator Certification And Business Licensing Requirements

by Tom Walsh

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is responsible for regulating the sale, use, storage and disposal of pesticides and for enforcing the Maryland Pesticide Applicators Law. MDA is responsible for establishing guidelines and requirements for the applications of pesticides, the certification of pesticide applicators and the licensing of businesses to ensure that pesticides are applied properly by competent individuals.

There are several different types of pesticide applicator certificates and licenses issued by MDA, including: private applicator certificates, pesticide business licenses, pest control applicators certificates, pest control consultant certificates, public agency permits, public agency applicator certificates, and "not-for-hire" business licenses and pesticide applicator certificates.

A private applicator is an individual who uses a restricted use pesticide in the production of an agricultural commodity on their own or leased property, such as dairy farms, orchards, nurseries, turf farms and greenhouses. A pesticide business is any business that is offering pest control services or applying general or restricted use pesticides for hire as part of a service or contract agreement.

Golf courses in Maryland that apply restricted use pesticides must possess a "not-for-hire" pesticide business license as well as a pest control applicator certificate. At least one employee of the golf course must be certified in those categories for which the golf course is licensed.

For any further clarification or questions, please contact Ed Crow at the Maryland Department of Agriculture (410-841-5710). For the purpose of this article, the laws in the state of Maryland were used as examples.

Please refer to your own state jurisdiction for laws regarding your golf course. Each surrounding state may have different requirements for compliance on golf courses.