

TURFGRASS MATTERS

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Superintendents and Scientists

A Synergistic Mix

by Tim Norris, CGCS



Government Relations Chairman Dean Graves addresses EPA officials

On March 8th, 2001 a groundbreaking meeting hosted by MAAGCS, was held at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. Golf course superintendents from four area clubs and scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency met for an exchange of ideas between industry and the government. David Evans and Chris Rosetto, representatives from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Washington lobbying firm, Reed, Smith, Hazel & Thomas, also attended.

Mike Farrar with the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and Director of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program approached Dean Graves, the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents' Government Relations Chair with the idea of an open discussion between EPA regulators and golf course superintendents. The purpose of this discussion would be to introduce the scientists responsible for making regulatory decisions to pesticide end users.

Dean Graves, Tim Norris, CGCS, Joe Perry, CGCS and Glenn Smickley, CGCS represented the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Bob Wilbur, golf course superintendent at Army Navy Country Club-Arlington, was kind enough to host the EPA personnel at his maintenance facility for an up-close look at application equipment and procedures.

Mr. Graves, superintendent at the Chevy Chase Club, kicked off the meeting by explaining the concept of Integrated Pest Management and how it fits into the decision making process when superintendents make pesticide applications. Joe Perry, CGCS, superintendent at Eagle's Landing Golf Course, discussed the daily duties and responsibilities that are faced by golf course superintendents. Glenn Smickley, CGCS described the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and the steps he has taken at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club to achieve the Audubon Certification. Mr. Smickley also discussed some of the issues that he

faces maintaining a golf course adjacent to Lake Manassas that serves as the City of Manassas' drinking water reservoir. The participants then moved a short distance to Mr. Wilbur's maintenance facility where Tim Norris, CGCS, superintendent at Army Navy Country Club-Fairfax, demonstrated the use of pesticide application equipment, specifically, a dedicated boom spray rig.

Twenty scientists from the Health Effects Division, Environmental Fate and Effects Division and the Biological and Economic Analysis Division represented the EPA. These scientists are responsible for making many of the regulatory decisions concerning pesticides that are used on turf. Mr. Farrar and Gary Bangs from the Health Effects Division felt it would be beneficial to introduce the risk assessors to some background information on golf course management practices so they would be able to make better-informed decisions on pesticide usage. Superintendents were able to gain

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