

MAAGCS Scholarship Applications Available

By Tom Ritter

The MAAGCS is pleased to announce that scholarships will once again be offered to turfgrass/golf course management students. The applicant must be an employee of a Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendent member. Applicants must have completed either:

- a) The first year of a four-year or baccalaureate program with major emphasis in turf management.
- b) The first semester of a two-year turfgrass technical program.

Past recipients of a MAAGCS Scholarship may reapply.

All applications must be completed, submitted and postmarked no later than August 16, 2003. Applications can be obtained by calling the MAAGCS office at 1-888-643-8873.

Russell Roberts

by Kenneth Ingram

The MAAGCS lost a great friend on February 6, 2003. Russell Roberts died at his home in Gaithersburg, MD, he was 80 years old. Most of us had left or were just getting ready to leave for the GCSAA Conference in Atlanta. That, together with the big snowstorm, kept a lot of members from attending the funeral or even getting the news.

Russell could have been a character out of Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation." Raised on a farm here in MD, he joined the Navy in WWII, came back home and started a successful business, raised a family, and seemingly never asked for thanks of any kind for helping shape the world we know and building the world's strongest economy. The chances are pretty good Russell worked on your golf course in this area at one time, the list is too long to print here. He did design and construction but most of us remember him as an irrigation contractor. Russell was a pilot and frequently flew to jobs around the area. He landed his plane on his farm in Darnestown on a field not much bigger than a long Par 3. He never had the newest equipment or methods but always got the job done at a reasonable cost. His three sons all worked for him at one time or another. His oldest son Jack ran the company in the 1990's after Russell retired.

There are a lot of great stories about Russell out there amongst our members. Several guys had irrigation parts delivered by "Air Mail." If Russell ever told you to go stand out on your driving range you knew what was coming. I watched him build a backhoe bucket out of scrap steel once in less than an hour. I really believe Russell's thrifty ways are the only reason a lot of area clubs could be built or afford to get many projects done. And don't forget his famous quote, "it's easier to ask for forgiveness than it is for permission." He was a great man and a good friend to Superintendents.

*Superintendent/Pro Tournament
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A very special thanks to Scott Reeside for hosting this year's Superintendent/Pro Golf Tournament.

And, thanks to all the tournament sponsors for their generous contributions:

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