

TURFGRASS MATTERS

September/October 2004

Volume 75, Number 4

Stewards of the Chesapeake 2004 Prospect Bay Golf Club **Host Superintendent: Glen Stowers**

This year's Stewards of the Chesapeake Tournament was another tremendous success. All thanks go to Glen Stowers our host Superintendent, Jim DeMallie our host Professional, and as always Theresa Baria. Prospect Bay is arguably one of the best sites possible for such an event, being one of if not the first golf developments on the Chesapeake Bay.

This year's event was our fifth and it seems to gain in popularity each year. The event was created in large part by the efforts of Chris Ayers, MAAGCS President in 2001. In five years the event has raised over \$25,000 and has funded several environmental and turfgrass research projects. In the beginning we struggled to find a name for this event. The title Stewards of the Chesapeake continues to be a real mouthful but accurately describes the commitment MAAGCS members have for golf and the environment.

Golf Results

1st Place: Atlantic Golf: Bill Shirk, Lex Birney, Shelly Ford, and Julie Natoli
2nd Place: Leisure World: Scott Wagner, Glen Myers, Ken Holt, and Tom Crane
3rd Place: Syngenta: Ed Walker, Scott Furlong, Mike King and Brian Bupp
(*Defending Champions*)

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President's Message

Ken Ingram, CGCS

These two or three paragraphs are always difficult for me to write. Ask me something about dead grass, irrigation repair, or labor laws and I can write volumes. All of it will be current and pertinent information as well. But a simple message to my peers gives me instant writer's block. Education is out, there's not much I can teach you all. I'm always the last to hear any news and I can't think of any clean jokes, so that's out. I can write a few words about the MAAGCS I suppose. Despite my lack of leadership we are still a great GCSAA Chapter.

I sincerely hope we can finish the year with a bang. We get to visit clubs in Baltimore and Virginia which is a real treat. Our premiere golf event is coming up at Towson Golf & CC with the annual tournament on October 25th and in November we visit Hidden Creek in Reston. The MAAGCS has a lot of history at both these clubs and we look forward to returning. It will be difficult to top our August and September meetings however. In August at Prospect Bay we had a great day, playing a great course and enjoyed fine hospitality all the while making some \$6000 to contribute to scholarship and research. As they say down in Little Italy, "what's not to like." We seemed to break the poor September attendance trend when "everyone is aerifying" having some 60 players at the fabulous new Old Hickory Golf Course in Woodbridge.

A lot of us need a break from the daily grind. We didn't get the hot weather this year but I found some new ways to kill grass. I never heard of such rainfall totals before in this area and I swear I lived in Washington 20 years and never heard a tornado warning. Listening to the radio on the way home often nowadays sounds like we are in Texas or Oklahoma. I hope to see you all soon.

Upcoming Events

**Monday, 10/25, Annual Tournament,
Towson CC**
**Tuesday, 11/9, IAC Election/Scramble,
Hidden Creek**
**Tuesday, 12/14, Seminar, Greenbelt
Marriott**

Become More Involved

The 2004 MAAGCS Annual Meeting and Elections will be December 14th. If you are interested in serving on the MAAGCS Board of Directors, please contact Past President Jim Halley at 301/536-4553



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September Golf

Two-man Team Event at Old Hickory Golf Club

Host Superintendent: David Horton

Net Division

- 1st Place (-11): Tom Tellier, Tom Walsh
 2nd Place (-10): Jon Anderes, Tom Tokarski
 3rd Place (-9): Ron Nichols, Rob Hessler

Gross Division

- 1st Place (-1): Mark Kingora, Grant Friend
 2nd Place (+1): Bill Shirk, Scott Wagner

<u>Closest to Pin</u>	<u>Long Drive</u>	<u>Straightest Drive</u>
Scott Wagner	Michael Oates	Tom Clark
David Horton	Michael Peny	
Eric Ault		

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George Renault

It was last October that the Board voted to make George Renault an Honorary Member of the MAAGCS. It took us almost an entire year to actually make the presentation. But finally, at our September meeting, we got it done. Then I forgot my camera, the picture will probably take another year.

George is one of many great Superintendents in MAAGCS history. He was our MAAGCS President in 1988 and is only one of three MAAGCS members to become President of our national association. In 1998 George served as GCSAA President, making history along with George Cleaver in 1978 and Bob Shields in 1965. After a stint in Florida, George is closer to home now in Williamsburg building the new development Colonial Heritage.

George had a military background and I can't help but think that some of that discipline and dedication helped make him a fine Superintendent. Some of you will remember his father, Colonel Renault, who was a perennial Green Chairman at Fort Belvoir GC and worked with legendary Superintendent Thomas Doerer. George worked his way up from Goose Creek and Penderbrook to Chevy Chase Club and Burning Tree. Hopefully we can get him up to a few meetings in the future. We may have to salute when we see him now. I'm sure he would enjoy fleecing a few of his old friends on the golf course.



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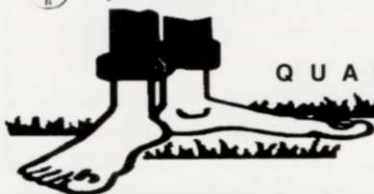


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Superintendent Profiles

David Horton/Old Hickory Golf Club

Dave is a native of Australia. He is a keen golfer having played the game competitively all over the world. Dave settled in our area in the early 1990's, attended the IAA at Uof MD while working at Bethesda CC and graduated in 1993. Dave, his wife Ann, and two children live in the River Creek community in Leesburg.

Old Hickory is a relatively new course opening to rave reviews in July 2003. It is a sister course to Raspberry Falls in Leesburg, VA. Both clubs have the same ownership and other similarities. Both courses were designed by Tim Freeland, Raspberry Falls while he was with the Gary Player group and Old Hickory was his first individual effort. Our host David Horton and Head Pro Steve Clark both came over from Raspberry Falls.

Quent Baria/Towson Golf & Country Club

Quent started working at age 14 for Jack Baria, at Fincastle CC in Bluefield, VA. He attained a BS in Agronomy at Virginia Tech and started his career as an assistant at the Glen Oaks Club in Old Westbury, NY. He returned to SW Virginia and spent the next fifteen years as superintendent at Tazewell CC and Fincastle CC. Quent started at Towson in April of '02. Towson hosts a USGA sectional qualifier for the U. S. Open annually, and they hosted the Maryland State Amateur in '04. They recently renovated all 19 greens by installing slit trench drainage, gassing, and sodding to A-1 bentgrass.

He is married to Theresa and they have one son, Jackson, age 11, in addition to Theresa's older two children, Jordan and Angel. They have four grandchildren. (Theresa will happily tell you all about them. Make sure you have blocked out some time.) In his spare time he has been a Scout Leader and remains active in his church.

Steve Nash/Hidden Creek Country Club

Hidden Creek CC was designed by Eddie Ault and opened for play in 1963. It is located in Reston, VA and is owned and operated by Fore Golf Services, Charlie Staples president. Their management goal is to provide the membership with the best possible golfing conditions at all times. The greens, tees and fairways are primarily bent with Poa mixed in. The greens are seeded to A-1/A-4 each time they are aerified. The fairways are in the 10th year of a bentgrass-overseeding program. They have used many different varieties of bent but are currently using L-93/Trueline. The amount of bent ranges from a little here and there to 100%. They are currently in the final year of a three year tee leveling program. After 11/11, they start removing the old sod, level the mix and then resod with new L-93/Southshore bent sod. The roughs are a mixture of Ryegrass, Poa, Bluegrass and Turf Type Tall Fescue.

Steve is a 1972 graduate of the Institute of Applied Agriculture. U. of MD. He has been a CGCS since 1985 and recently recertified until 2010. He has been superintendent at Hidden Creek since May 1998. Steve has been married to his wife Carla for 25 years and has four children, Jessica 23, Tim 19, Lindsay 16 and Nick 11. Away from the golf course, he likes to fish, coach Cyo basketball and is an assistant scoutmaster.

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GCSAA News

by Kenneth Ingram

This year's Chapter Delegates Meeting was held September 24-26th in Kansas City. For the past 12 years now, GCSAA has used this forum to educate and inform members as to "what's going on," network with the Directors and staff, and to meet candidates for the upcoming elections. The intent is for the chapter delegate to bring the information back and "spread the word." So here you go.

Each year, without fail, some controversial issue arises shortly before the meeting. This year was no exception with talk of a possible name change for the association. I must admit that prior to the meeting I was leaning away from any name change. I just felt we had too much invested in the title "Superintendent." I listened to some very convincing arguments however that have changed my thinking. I see a lot of outside influences at work here. By that I mean public perception and allied associations. It's a lot like the Headquarters Location debate. Many people in the "golf community" were surprised that a professional organization in the game of golf was headquartered in Lawrence, KS and not somewhere in the sunbelt. I think you all can relate to this, upon telling someone you are a golf course superintendent, they say "what's that" or "but what do you do." Then you proceed to say that you "manage" a golf course. It seems that the word Manager or Management is going to be in our future. There is a lot of concern about confusion with the Club Managers (CMAA) so I think the word will be Management. We listened to lengthy discussion from staff and Past Presidents about confusing and outright embarrassing situations when prominent officials in the game just did not know what Superintendent's do. "Superintendent" is just not descriptive enough and worse yet conjures up images of building maintenance personnel. Also, as tapes showed, the acronym GCSAA is a terrific "tongue twister" for many people. Unfortunately there is talk as well about dropping the last "A" for America. You'll notice the PGA does not use it, the experts say the "AA" is the real tongue twister. Also, each year we become more of an international organization. Anyway, we did what GCSAA does best and that is appoint a task group to work on the problem. I'd bet that GCSAA will become the Golf Course Management Association in the near future. Keep in mind you can continue to call yourself Superintendent or whatever your club desires, it's just the name of the national association that will change. Ironically, 4 of the 9 current Board Members do not use the title Superintendent at their club.

The second most discussed topic had to be the new Golf Industry Show. This is really going to be something. A 6,000 sq.ft. USGA putting green designed by Fazio is going to be constructed on the tradeshow floor. There will be a driving range, a test track for electric vehicles, and a lot of other enhancements. The bottomline is that show is GCSAA's #1 asset and it was declining in size and attendance. All these changes and the partnerships we are entering into with other associations are designed to revitalize the show. It was continually stressed to us that it is still "our show" and the contracts with other groups are skewed heavily in our favor.

So much else was discussed it is hard to list. Saturday's session alone went from 6:30am to 9:30pm. We had a thorough financial report and things are much improved. GCSAA is a 17 million dollar operation with no debt. You've all heard by now that the Headquarters Location study is complete and we are not moving (for now.) There was an update on Certification. If you ever considered becoming a CGCS I hope this newsletter reaches you before November 1, 2004 because new methods come into effect and they look much tougher to me. There was a ton of talk about the "Success of the Facility" and a new "Facility Membership." Bottomline is the superintendent can't be successful if the entire facility is not and there are a lot of ideas being considered to make the Superintendent the key to the economic vitality of the facility so they can achieve career success, increase compensation, job security, etc.

I was able to meet all the candidates except Bob Ranquist, whom I like very much. Bob was stuck in the dark at Boca Rio with hurricane Jeanne but they had a speakerphone in his breakout room so everyone could ask questions. As always I left Kansas with a full tummy, tired fanny, and a lot of pride in my national association be it GCSAA, GCMA, or whatever.

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News & Notes

New Members

Class C

Daryck Beetham	Tantallon CC
Robert David Sines	Springfield Golf & CC
Mark McGreery	Lakewood CC

Class D

Adam Bojucki	Country Club of Maryland
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Class F

Matthew Lowe	RELS
Rick Shearer	Excell Minerals, Inc.

Condolences

To Rich and Jamie Sweeney on the death of her father, Jim Scheetz, who passed away Tuesday, 9/21/04

To Joe Herkalo on the recent death of his grandfather

Bullets from the Boardroom

MAAGCS Secretary - Tom Ritter, GCGS

Media/Public Relations Committee Chairman Randall Pinckney has contacted GCSAA's Director of Communications Jeff Bollig about publicizing the MAAGCS television commercial that is currently being aired in the Montgomery and Baltimore County markets.

President Ken Ingram, CGCS appointed Tom Ritter, CGCS to serve as the alternative voting delegate for MAAGCS