

TURFGRASS MATTERS

March/April 2005

Volume 76, Number 1

2004 Annual Meeting Minutes Tom Ritter, CGCS

The Annual Meeting of the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held on December 14, 2004 at the Greenbelt Marriott. President Ken Ingram, CGCS called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

President Ingram welcomed the attendees and thanked the 2004 chapter meeting hosts. He recognized each Board member and their accomplishments for the year. He then presented retiring Board member John Newcomb, CGCS with a plaque in appreciation of his years of service. John thanked Ken for the plaque and told all those in attendance about his experiences serving on the Board. Ken then presented outgoing Past President Jim Halley with a plaque recognizing his years of service to the Board of Directors.

Vice President Drew Scully, CGCS asked for assistance in obtaining meeting sites for chapter meetings in 2005.

Mark Kingora, Director of Golf Committee announced that Tom Tokarski was selected the MAAGCS Player of the Year for 2004.

Bryan McFerren, Director of Education Committee called Dr. Kevin Mathias to the podium to help present MAAGCS Scholarships to six University of Maryland Golf/Turf students in both the 2 and the 4-year program.

President Ingram acknowledged Executive Secretary Theresa Baria for her efforts in 2004. He then presented outgoing Industrial Advisory Committee member Larry Cosh with a plaque and thanked him for his service on the IAC.

A new Board was elected:

President Drew Scully, CGCS, Baltimore County Revenue Authority
Vice President Tom Ritter, CGCS, Hampshire Greens GC
Treasurer Mark Kingora, Bethesda CC
Secretary Randall Pinckney, Manor CC

New Directors:

Quent Baria, CGCS, Towson G & CC
Bryan McFerren, University of MD GC
Brett Post, Cross Creek GC
Rich Sweeney, CGCS, Mount Vernon CC

The gavel was passed from Ken Ingram, CGCS to new President Drew Scully, CGCS. Drew thanked Ken for his efforts in 2004 and presented him with a plaque. Drew outlined his goals for 2005 that included expanding the March seminar to a 2-day event by 2006, separate the Annual Meeting from the GCSAA Chapter-Hosted Seminar and make it a stand-alone event, bring MAAGCS up to date technologically, increase Assistant Superintendent involvement, and grow the membership in 2005.

President Scully adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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President's Message

Drew Scully, CGCS

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the President of the Association for 2005. It is a difficult time in the golf business and a volunteer organization is always susceptible to erosion when times get tough. Fortunately we have a dedicated Board of Directors and I look forward to working on behalf of the membership to grow this Association and focus on its future in the golf industry. We are in a period of change, adjustment, or correction for the golf business and the Association will need to adapt in order to survive.

The Board of Directors has spent the majority of the last two years getting the Association back into a member friendly environment. Establishment and improvement of the web site, improved vendor relations, improved scholarships, and successful fundraising for continued research support have been the focus. I would like to see the Association's membership grow as I stated in my article in the last issue. The primary areas for growth are the Assistant Superintendent, Student, and Affiliate classes. All three are vital to the success of the Association and the Class A & B members.

I look forward to the opportunities before the Association this year and to personally meet more members of the Association. As I finish this message on the eve of the March seminar,

there is a sense of excitement for the coming year, almost 25% of the membership signed up for the seminar, we have received several new membership applications, we have a new event for April in conjunction with BASF, Phil Mickleson and Tiger Woods actually made golf fun to watch at Doral, let's have a great year. Thank you.

2005 Calendar

- April 5 Waverly Woods GC
- May 11 Crofton CC (Supt/Pro)
- June 14 Twin Shields Golf Club
- July Picnic Mayo Beach (Date TBA)
- Aug. 1 Sparrows Point CC (Stewards)
- Sept. 20 Worthington Manor GC
(Joint with GWGCSA)
- Oct. Suburban Club (Date TBA)
- Nov. (Date and Place TBA)
- Dec. Annual Meeting (Date TBA)



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Turfgrass Matters

Brett Post - Editor

MAAGCS Notes

MAAGCS Honorary Member George Cleaver Dies

By Ken Ingram

The MAAGCS lost one of our Honorary Members on January 15th. George Cleaver died at his home in Lewes, DE. He was 78 years old. George was our chapter President in 1968 and GCSAA President in 1978. He was the Superintendent at Chestnut Ridge from 1959 until the mid-1980's.

George graduated from Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. He worked as a gardener at a Dupont estate and had a couple of other assignments with Dupont. Upon meeting and talking with the legendary Jim Reid at Suburban Club, George moved to Baltimore as Jim Reid's assistant.

George always loved Lewes, DE. He used to spend weekends and vacations there fixing up his retirement home. He started a floor sanding business there after retiring from golf. Friends remember him as a very easy going, laid back man. In what could have been a very embarrassing situation for our association, George lost his job at Chestnut Ridge on a Friday and the MAAGCS had a meeting scheduled there the next Tuesday. George handled it like a gentleman, introduced his Assistant, Mark Bertoldi as the new Superintendent at our meeting. That was some time back in the mid-1980's and many of us never saw George again.

GCSAA Annual Tournament

Rich Sweeney, CGCS, Golf Chairman

Below is a list of Notables that played well in the GCSAA Golf Championship in Orlando. The weather was perfect, the courses are great. This is how the Mid-Atlantic fared:

CHAMPIONSHIPFLIGHT:

Rick Wakefield, CGCS, tied for 4th with a score of 148; Ed Brown, CGCS, tied for 6th place with a score of 150

FOURTHFLIGHT:

John Anderes tied for 4th in gross, 3rd place net; Tom Tokarski tied for 7th place gross, 9th place net; Ed Gasper tied for 8th place gross; Charlie Ulevich tied for 8th place gross; Mike Evans, CGCS, tied for 9th place gross.

SIXTHFLIGHT:

Paul Masimore, CGCS, tied for 7th place gross.

CHAPTERTEAMNET:

John Anderes, Mike Evans, Paul Masimore, Tom Tokarski, 9th Place.

TWOMANTEAM:

NET I - Tied for 3rd. Score 66, Matt Richter, Steve Sweiderk

NET II - Tied for 2nd., Score 61, John Anderes, Tom Tokarski

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Bullets from the Boardroom

MAAGCS Secretary - Randall Pinckney

- Meeting sites are still needed to fill 2005 and 2006.
- MAAGCS web-site is bigger and better thanks to the help of Quent Baria, CGCS and Theresa Baria. The web-site is more functional and user friendly. A mailer to all members has been mailed with new user names and passwords. If you did not receive one, please contact Theresa Baria.
- The 2005 budget was approved at the January meeting.
- Assistant Superintendent membership is too low.
- Senate Bill 19. Refers to golf courses being sold for housing needing to be sampled for contaminants. Which could possibly have an impact on future golf course renovation and/or construction.

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Spring Transition of Bermudagrass With Revolver® and Monument®

Peter H. Dernoeden, Ph.D., Professor of Turfgrass Management, University of Maryland at College Park

I attended two symposia involving the use of sulfonyleurea (SU) herbicides for weed control in bermudagrass and other warm-season grasses in 2004. Most of the information presented in this article was obtained from presentations given by Dr's Shawn Askew (VPI), Bert McCarty (Clemson), Tim Murphy (U of GA), Fred Yelverton (NCSU), and others.

A major theme of the symposia was how to use SU herbicides for eliminating perennial ryegrass (PRG), roughstalk bluegrass (RBG), and annual bluegrass (ABG) from bermudagrass fairways and athletic fields. Kerb® (pronamide) is the standard herbicide for PRG and ABG control in bermudagrass. Kerb, however, is slow to act (4-6 weeks) and is notorious for moving long distances in surface water. This movement has on many occasions resulted in large losses of cool-season grasses as the herbicide is carried by water into drainage patterns to adjacent areas. The SU herbicides are more rapid (10-30 days) and move a lesser distance in surface water. Most SU's are very effective in controlling PRG and a variety of specific weeds. Among the more common SU's used on warm-season grasses include Corsair® (chlorsulfuron); Manor® (metsulfuron); Monument® (trifloxysulfuron); and Revolver (formasulfuron). The SU's are very diverse in their spectrum of weed control activity. Monument and Revolver control PRG, RBG and ABG; whereas, Corsair and Manor only control PRG. Because of their larger spectrum of activity, Revolver and Monument are currently the preferred herbicides used to control cool-season grasses growing in bermudagrass and zoysiagrass. Revolver is labeled for use in Maryland, but not Monument.

The SU's are both root and foliar absorbed. Some are more soil active (e.g., Monument) and others foliar (e.g., Revolver). They are used at very low rates and have low non-target species toxicity. Their mode of action (i.e., ALS inhibitors) is to inhibit the production of three amino acids (i.e., leucine, isoleucine, valine). They have long half-lives in soil and they can track or move in surface water. Because of potential movement of SU's in the surface water to adjacent cool-season grasses, it is recommended that a 15 foot buffer zone between the spray line and desirable cool-season turf be established. Tracking occurs when mowers and other equipment traverse treated areas when they are wet with the herbicide. Dew can re-suspend these herbicides and mowing equipment can redistribute the herbicide several days after application. Tracking is minimized by watering-in the herbicide after it dries on leaves, but prior to mowing and by mowing when turf is dry. The SU's are not volatile and they are degraded by water (i.e., hydrolysis) in the environment. The performance of some SU's (e.g., Monument) is improved by tank-mixing them with a non-ionic surfactant. Using additional surfactant with Revolver, however, is not recommended or necessary since the formulation already contains methylated seed oil.

Bermudagrass fairways and athletic fields are frequently overseeded in late summer with PRG and other cool-season grasses. The cool-season grass provides green color and improved playability during winter when the bermudagrass is dormant. In the spring, it is important to remove cool-season grasses to improve bermudagrass vigor, aggressiveness and thus recovery. If not removed, cool-season

grasses (especially perennial ryegrass) compete with and/or shade the bermudagrass and contribute to a loss in bermudagrass density overtime. For example, by not removing overseeded PRG each year can result in 50% or greater loss of bermudagrass in just a few years. Hence, the goal is to eradicate the PRG to release the bermudagrass with enough growing days to ensure total recovery of the bermudagrass before autumn.

Successful transition involves integrating cultural and chemical measures at the proper time. For most effective transition, research conducted at NCSU, UGA, Clemson, VPI and elsewhere has shown that SU use should be delayed until late spring, after bermudagrass has achieved 100% green-up. As noted below, applying SU's before 100% green-up and suitable temperatures can reduce herbicide performance and delay green-up. At bermudagrass green-up, the mowing height should be reduced and nitrogen use increased at a moderate rate. About 30 days after green-up, the bermudagrass should be lightly verti-cut and aerified. Deep and heavy vertical cutting will injure bermudagrass at this time and will delay recovery. About 30 days after cultivating, an SU should be applied to eliminate competition between the bermudagrass and cool-season grass(es). There appears to be a temperature or degree day requirement for the most effective use of SU's in bermudagrass transition programs. Night temperature should be consistently above 65F before using an SU to ensure vigorous bermudagrass growth. Furthermore, SU's do not appear to sufficiently injure PRG or ABG until temperature are consistently above 60F. Most SU's show decreased control capability at temperatures below 55F. SU performance can be poor in dry soils, but their use in saturated soil is discouraged. Hence, soil should be moist, but not excessively wet prior to applying an SU.

It is especially important to eliminate cool-season grasses at a time when there are at least 100 days of warm-hot summer temperatures to stimulate bermudagrass regrowth. In Maryland, an early-June removal of cool-season grasses would be required to ensure enough growing days remain to promote complete bermudagrass recovery. Weak or thin areas should be sprigged as soon as possible if large dead areas become apparent following removal of the cool-season grasses. An area worth considering is overseeding with the new seeded bermudagrasses, which would allow you to overseed at the time you eliminate the perennial ryegrass. Revolver is very safe on bermudagrass seedlings. It should be noted, however, that seeded bermudagrass cultivars are not generally compatible with vegetative cultivars. Thereafter, water soluble nitrogen (e.g., urea or ammonium sulfate) should be applied weekly at 0.5 - 1.0 lb N/1000ft² until there is complete bermudagrass cover. Applications of nitrogen, however, should cease after mid-August in Maryland as late season over-stimulation of bermudagrass can increase the chance for winter injury. Communication with members/greens committee is important prior to using any SU for transition for the first time, since this is the first time you may realize how little bermudagrass you actually have. Chemical transitioning will allow you to build your bermudagrass base, and transitioning becomes less painful with each successive year. It may take three
(Continued Page 6)

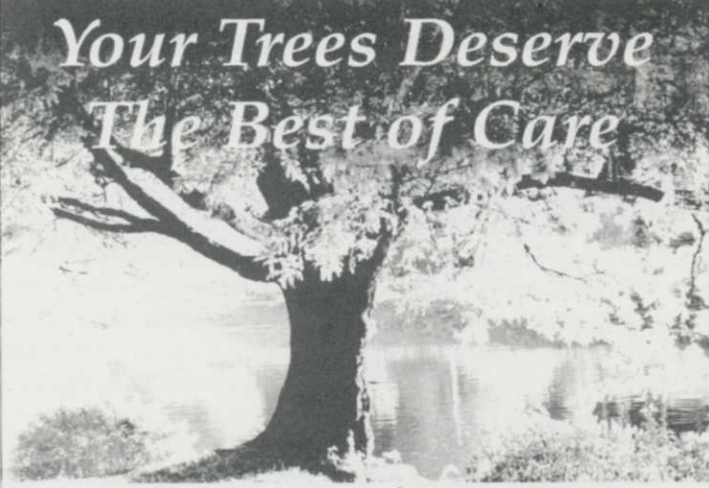
(Spring Transition/Dernoeden Continued from Page 5)

years to accomplish a dense bermudagrass cover. Also, spring dead spot or any winter injury can make transitioning more difficult.

Revolver and Monument have some unique strengths and weaknesses. Revolver effectively controls PRG, ABG, RBG and goosegrass; suppresses dallisgrass in spot-treatments; but is weak or ineffective against many broadleaf weeds and crabgrass. Monument also is effective in controlling PRG, ABG, and RBG; it provides excellent control of yellow and purple nutsedge and Kylinga, but it does not control crabgrass or goosegrass. Revolver is labelled without restriction for use on golf courses, sports turf, lawn care and sod production. Monument, however, is not labeled for use in Maryland, but may be used on golf courses in Virginia and other Southeastern states. As always, carefully review the label before using any herbicide.

I gratefully acknowledge Bayer Crop Science and Syngenta Crop Protection for sponsoring honest, open and unbiased symposia focusing on the use of Revolver and Monument, respectively.


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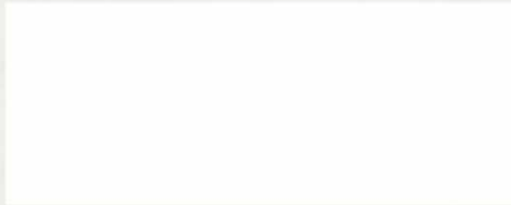
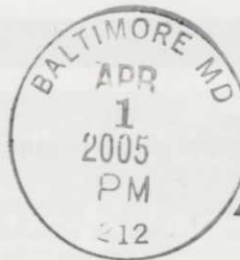
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Turfgrass Matters

Brett Post - Editor

Member News

New Members

Class B

Eric Long U. S. Soldiers
Jeffrey Muller The Suburban Club
John Vinson, Jr. Maryland Golf & CC
Daniel Weitzel Bear Creek Golf Course

Class C

Troy Brawner Bethesda Country Club
John Gleason Bethesda Country Club
Vincent DiRito Beechtree Golf Club

Class F

Ed Childs Finch Services
Todd Travers Scientific Plant Service

Class G

Glen MacDonald Kokopelli Golf Club

Best Wishes

To Jon and Katie Urbanski on the birth of their son,
John Marcus

Condolences

To the family and friends of George Cleaver
To Bill Brown on the death of his father, Brownie

Moving Up

Donn Dietrich is now GM at Maryland Golf and
Country Club
John Vinson, Jr. has moved up to Superintendent,
Congratulations to both!!!