



TURFGRASS MATTERS

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Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Annual Election Meeting of the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held on December 13, 2005 at The Woodlands/Diamond Ridge Golf Courses in Woodlawn, MD. President Drew Scully, CGCS called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. President Scully welcomed all attendees and thanked the 2005 Board of Directors and Executive Secretary Theresa Baria for their contributions.

Drew introduced guest speakers Rick Lanore and Dr. Peter Dernoeden. Mr. Lanore is the President of the Maryland Turfgrass Council and he reported on the status of the MD Turfgrass Survey that is underway. Dr. Dernoeden updated everyone on current research projects at the University of Maryland.

Drew described the proposed bylaw changes that would decrease the MAAGCS Board from 11 to 9 members and decrease the average term length for Directors. Past President Ken Ingram, CGCS, MG, Chairman of the Nominating Committee explained that a two-thirds majority of those voting members in attendance is required to implement a bylaws change. A show of hands vote was made and the bylaws changes were passed. Ken thanked nominating committee members Mike Larsen, CGCS and Walter Montross, CGCS, MG for their involvement.

Rich Sweeney, CGCS, Director of Golf Committee Chairman announced that Ed Gasper, (Timbers at Troy GC) was selected as the MAAGCS Player of the Year.

Jean Scott was elected to the Industrial Advisory Committee.

A new Board was elected:

President Tom Ritter, CGCS, Hampshire Greens GC
Vice President Randall Pinckney, Manor CC
Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kingora, Bethesda CC

Directors:

Bill Augustin, CC of Maryland
Mike Augustin, Belle Haven CC
Quent Baria, CGCS, Towson G & CC
Bryan McFerren, University of MD GC
Rich Sweeney, CGCS, Mount Vernon CC



The gavel was passed from Drew Scully, CGCS to new President Tom Ritter, CGCS. Drew presented outgoing Past President Ken Ingram, CGCS, MG with a plaque for his Board service. Tom thanked Drew for his leadership in 2005 and presented him with a plaque. Tom also presented plaques to outgoing IAC member Tom Walsh and outgoing Director of Government Relations Committee Chairman Dean Graves, CGCS.

President Ritter thanked the Board and Executive Secretary Theresa Baria for their efforts in 2005, described MAAGCS highlights for 2005 and outlined goals for 2006.

President Ritter adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

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President's Message

Tom Ritter, CGCS

I both appreciate the opportunity am excited about serving as President of the MAAGCS in 2006. I look forward to working with and want to thank the newly elected 2006 Board for their commitment to the association this year. The best way I know that the Board and I can effectively serve it's members is for the members to communicate their concerns, ideas or questions to us and we will do our best to accommodate the needs of the majority of the members. We are here to serve you.

On that note, we have restructured the chapter meeting schedule this year by eliminating the June and early September meetings that have historically been poorly attended. We plan to hold the education seminar in March, the Superintendent/Assistant in April, and the Superintendent/Pro in May. The only scheduled summer event will be the family picnic in August. The Stewards of the Chesapeake will be held in late September this year followed by the Annual Championship in late October. The year will conclude with a mid-November golf meeting and the election meeting in December. The recent trend of lunch meetings or early dinner meetings will continue this year. With fewer meetings, it is my hope that attendance will be higher at each meeting and therefore opportunities for exchange of information with our peers should also increase at each meeting. I encourage those of you who are active to reach out and invite a neighboring Superintendent who isn't active or isn't a member to join you in attending a meeting this year.

I realize that with increased demands on our time and the current state of the golf business that it is becoming more and more difficult for Superintendents to leave the golf course for a day to attend a chapter meeting. But I also realize that for most of us that we now have multiple assistants and more turf students than in the past. I would ask all Superintendents to consider sending other staff members that your club is already paying MAAGCS dues for to represent your course at a meeting, and who knows, they may pick up a tidbit of information to bring back that can assist you in your operation.

I am sure most of you are aware of the current fundraising effort by the Maryland Turfgrass Council to produce a Turfgrass Survey. The last survey was in 1996 and needs to be updated to demonstrate to our legislators the scope and economic importance of our industry to the state in order to effectively compete for the tax dollars available. I heard Dr. Rick Brandenburg from N.C. State University tell the audience at Turfgrass '06 that the recent survey completed in North Carolina has had an enormous positive effect on the industry in his state. It is a powerful tool whose benefit will far outweigh it's cost. The estimated cost for the survey is \$120,000. If each of the nearly 200 golf courses in Maryland donated just \$500 toward the survey, we would be more than 75% of the way toward the goal just from the golf industry. I know that to expect this level of commitment is not realistic but you can see that some level of donation from a majority of golf facilities in the state will have a huge impact. Consider approaching the management at your club to request a donation. Try to convince your management team that this is just as important as the First Tee program or any of the other industry causes that your club is currently supporting. I would also invite our affiliate members to consider this as another way to support the turf industry. Contact MTC or visit their web site for more information.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as MAAGCS President this year and I believe that the members of this year's Board are willing and able to serve our association well. I hope that everyone can take some time this winter away from the golf course to recharge your batteries before the golf season is in full swing. I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2006 and I look forward to seeing everyone at our events this year.



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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Turfgrass Matters
Quent Baria, CGCS - Editor

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SCHEDULE

February 9, 2006, MAAGCS Reception in Atlanta,
Holiday Inn Select Atlanta-Capitol,
(7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

March 14-15, 2006, MAAGCS Seminar
Greenbelt Marriott
"Turfgrass Traffic Stress: Physiology and Management"

April 11, 2006, Superintendent/Assistant
Indian Spring CC

May 9, 2006, Superintendent/Pro
Beechtree Golf Course



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Research Snapshots From The University of Maryland

Steven McDonald and Peter Dernoeden
Department of Natural Resources Science and Landscape Architecture

Two, three year field research projects recently were completed at the University of Maryland Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Facility. These projects were partially supported by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAAGCS) and by Syngenta Crop Protection. If not for the support provided by the MAAGCS and industry, these projects and many others would not have been possible. Thanks for your continued support!

Irrigation Practice Impacts Dollar Spot and Gray Leaf Spot Severity

The most commonly grown turfgrass species on fairways in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States are creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L. var *palustris* (Huds.) Farw.) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.). Among the most intractable diseases in the region are dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* F. T. Bennett) in creeping bentgrass and gray leaf spot (*Pyricularia grisea* (Cooke) Sacc.) in perennial ryegrass. This field study assessed the influence of two irrigation regimes (light and frequent versus deep and infrequent) on dollar spot and gray leaf severity over a three year period on fairway height turf. Within each irrigation regime, seven chemical treatments also were evaluated. The chemical treatments included: chlorothalonil (Daconil Ultrex 82.5 WDG); paclobutrazol (Trimmit 2SC); wetting agent (Primer Select®); Daconil Ultrex + Trimmit; Daconil Ultrex + Primer Select; Daconil Ultrex + Trimmit + Primer Select; and an untreated control. Daconil Ultrex was applied at 3.2 oz per 1000ft² in 2002 and 2003, but the rate was reduced to 1.8 oz per 1000ft² in 2004. Trimmit was applied at 0.18 fl. oz per 1000ft² (a low rate commonly used on putting greens) while Primer Select was applied at 2.0 fl. oz per 1000ft². All chemical treatments were applied to creeping bentgrass on a fourteen day interval. In 2002 and 2003, the perennial ryegrass was treated on a fourteen day interval, however, in 2004 Daconil Ultrex treatments were applied to the ryegrass on an eight day interval. Data revealed that dollar spot became more severe in mid-to-late summer in creeping bentgrass that received infrequent irrigation, when compared to frequent irrigation in 2002 and 2004. Daconil Ultrex generally provided an acceptable level of dollar spot control, even at a reduced rate in 2004. Trimmit suppressed dollar spot 40 to 60% and Primer Select suppressed dollar spot 30 to 50% on several rating dates over the three seasons. On several rating dates, tank-mixing Daconil Ultrex with Trimmit resulted in better dollar spot control versus Daconil Ultrex-alone. There was, however, no benefit in terms of dollar spot control by tank-mixing Daconil Ultrex with Primer Select. On numerous rating dates in 2004, the chemical treatments provided better dollar spot suppression in frequently irrigated versus infrequently irrigated turf. Data showed that dollar spot intensified most in late summer in infrequently irrigated blocks. Hence, this study revealed that increasing soil moisture in late summer when dollar spot pressure is severe will help reduce disease severity and improve the level of control provided by plant protection materials. Spring and early summer outbreaks of dollar spot, however, were unaffected by irrigation regime.

Gray leaf spot was severe in 2002 and 2004, but the disease did not develop in 2003. In 2002, gray leaf spot rapidly and severely damaged even the fungicide-treated plots, and no significant irrigation effects or Daconil Ultrex treatment differences were observed. Gray leaf spot was more severe in frequently irrigated blocks, when compared to infrequently irrigated blocks in 2004. Daconil Ultrex provided effective gray leaf spot control in 2004, but only in the infrequently irrigated blocks where disease pressure was less. Neither Trimmit or Primer Select had any effect on gray leaf spot, and no benefit was observed from tank-mixing Daconil Ultrex with either Trimmit or Primer Select. Hence, unlike dollar spot, data showed that it is best to keep soils as dry as possible in late summer to reduce gray leaf spot severity in perennial ryegrass and thus improve the performance of fungicides. This study also showed that gray leaf spot was very destructive under periods of very high disease pressure and an ineffective fungicide application interval (i.e. 14- days), regardless of soil moisture level. Daconil Ultrex, however, effectively controlled gray leaf spot when applied on an eight-day rather than a fourteen-day spray interval, but only in infrequently irrigated blocks in 2004. Data showed that there were no negative effects of using Trimmit or Primer Select when gray leaf spot is active. This information will help golf course superintendents better manage dollar spot and gray leaf spot by adjusting their irrigation practices and by using plant protection chemicals more effectively.

The Influence of Fungicide Spray Volume and Application Timing on Dollar Spot Control

Dollar spot can be a difficult disease to control in creeping bentgrass. To maximize fungicide performance, more information is needed regarding proper delivery timing and water dilution or spray volume. In these field studies, a contact (chlorothalonil, Daconil Ultrex 82.5 WDG) and a penetrant (propiconazole, Banner MAXX) fungicide were evaluated. The objectives of this field study were to: (1) assess the influence of two spray volumes (50 versus 109 gallons of water per acre); and (2) evaluate the impact of the presence or absence of dew at the time of application on the ability of the aforementioned fungicides to control dollar spot in fairway height creeping bentgrass. Only Daconil Ultrex (3.2 oz per 1000ft²) was assessed in 2002, but Daconil Ultrex (1.8 oz per 1000ft²), Banner MAXX (0.5 to 1.0 oz per 1000ft²), and a tank-mix of Daconil Ultrex (1.8 oz per 1000ft²) + Banner MAXX (0.5 to 1.0 oz per 1000ft²) were evaluated in 2003 and 2004. Treatments were applied in two spray volumes with dew present or displaced in the AM or in the PM to a dry canopy. Daconil Ultrex generally provided better dollar spot control when applied in 50 versus 109 gallons water per acre. There were no dates when the higher spray volume improved the ability of Daconil Ultrex or Banner MAXX to control dollar spot. During the three study years, PM applications resulted in better dollar spot control versus AM application with Daconil Ultrex-alone. In 2004 only, Daconil Ultrex gave better dollar spot control on several dates in plots where dew was displaced, when compared to plots treated with dew present. Few differences in spray volume and application timing were observed with Banner MAXX and the tank mix treatments. The tank-mix, however, generally provided a longer duration and higher level of dollar spot control, when compared to Banner MAXX-alone. Dew levels on the bentgrass were quantified and averaged between 100 and 272 gallons of water per acre. Evidentially, Daconil Ultrex performance was reduced as a result of being diluted or washed from foliar surfaces in the higher spray volume or diluted by dew; whereas, the penetrant Banner MAXX was able to effectively penetrate tissue without loss of effectiveness. Since both fungicides perform well when applied in 50 gallons water per acre, golf course managers can use the lower spray volume when targeting dollar spot to save time, labor and fuel.

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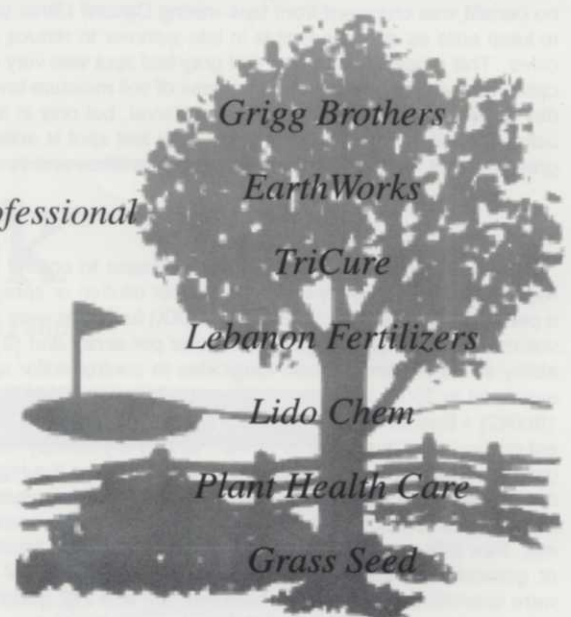
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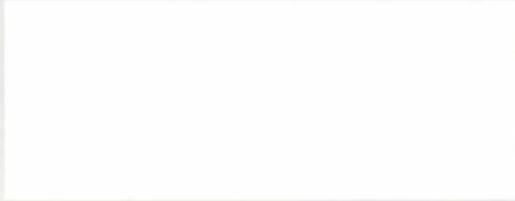
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Turfgrass Matters
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News & Notes

New Members

Class B

Lance Helz, Class B, Augustine Golf Club
Ethan Lester, Maryland National Golf Club
Erik Mikkonon, Chesapeake Bay GC North East
Nick Schwab, Maryland National Golf Club
Perry D. Whaley, The Gauntlet GC

Class C

Robert Albert, Piney Branch Golf & CC
Tobi Doyle, Falls Rd GC

Congratulations

To Jon Lobenstine (Falls Road GC) and his wife
on the birth of their daughter

Bullets from the Boardroom

- ❖ Golf Industry Show 2006 Hospitality room February 9th @ the Holiday Inn Select Capital
- ❖ Nutramax donated \$3,000 to the 2006 MAAGCS hospitality room in Atlanta
- ❖ MAAGCS is donating \$7,000 each year for 2006 and 2007 to Dr. Dernoeden for turfgrass research @ University of Maryland
- ❖ MAAGCS will offer a corporate membership discount package to Class F members in 2006

Condolences

To Walter Montross (Westwood CC) on the death of his mother