

# TURFGRASS MATTERS

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2006

Volume 77, Number 4

## Stewards of the Chesapeake Golf Tournament South River Golf Links September 21, 2006 Theresa Baria, Executive Secretary

We had a great day for the Stewards of the Chesapeake Tournament. The weather was perfect, the course in excellent condition and food and camaraderie was first class. The MAAGCS Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who attended this event. Our special thanks go to Superintendent Richard Maranto and the staff of South River Golf Links for the day.

Syngenta ran an Ace Challenge and raised \$260.00 for our association. Thank you Mark Merrick!!!

Lenny Cook (Baltimore County Revenue Authority) won the closest to the hole competition associated with the Challenge.

Rick Fritz with Bayer Crop Science made a donation of \$2,337.50 for our scholarship fund. This was raised through Bayer's new fungicide Tartan's program.

**Low Net Score:**  
Ed Gasper  
Ed Walker  
JimHalley  
Bryan Bupp

**Low Gross Score:**  
Jim Johnson  
Josh Johnson  
Bill Shirk  
Scott Wager

**Please support our sponsors of this tournament as they make this event possible. Those of you, who were unable to attend, missed a great event. Make plans early to attend next year! It is a great opportunity to gather with colleagues and even to demonstrate to your facility officials the positive attributes of the MAAGCS membership and participation.**

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## President's Message

Tom Ritter, CGCS

By the time you read this, most of you will have wrapped up your fall renovations following a fairly typical mid Atlantic summer sandwiched between heavy rains in late June and again in late August. As we look ahead to the "off season", plans are already underway for our annual education seminar to be held on March 22, 2007 at the University of Maryland Student Union building. Please contact any Board member with any suggestions for speakers or topics you would like to see addressed.

I will again be serving as the mid-Atlantic chapter voting delegate this year and will be attending the delegates meeting in Kansas City on October 13-15. One of the topics of discussion will be the proposed GCSAA dues pricing strategy plan. Historically, GCSAA has imposed fairly large, but infrequent dues rate hikes that have had a negative impact on membership growth and retention the following year. The new plan would institute biannual dues increases based on the Consumer Price Index. The proposed plan would "keep up" with rising costs rather than the current method of "catching up" to the cost of running the Association. Many other professional organizations have adopted this method and report mostly positive feedback and results. Check out the GCSAA web site for more details. I will be glad to convey any concerns or questions from MAAGCS members regarding this proposed strategy or any other issues or concerns you may have. Please contact me to discuss.

I want to point out that there was an article in the August 2006 (page 30) issue of Golf Course Management magazine that featured the meeting held last spring between EPA officials and several MAAGCS Superintendents. The article also included a photo of Rich Sweeney, CGCS and Quent Baria, CGCS during the presentation portion of the meeting. Thanks to Rich, Quent and also to Dean Graves, CGCS for educating the EPA staff on our behalf that day. It's great to see our chapter recognized on the national level.

I hope that most of you can get out and enjoy some great fall golf at our meetings at Holly Hills on October 24th and at Lakewood on November 14th. We also have our annual election meeting coming up and are looking for candidates for the Board. I'll reiterate what most MAAGCS presidents before me have said or written. While it is true that serving on a Board requires some time and effort, the benefits far outweigh the negatives. Please contact any Board member if you are interested. By the way, I remember who all the Superintendents were that told me last year that they would run for the Board this year. You will definitely be receiving a call to serve.



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### Turfgrass Matters Quent Baria, CGCS - Editor

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Products advertised in this publication are not endorsed by this Association

## MAAGCS Mourns the Loss of Rick Wakefield

Members of International Country Club and other area golfers are saddened by the news as word spread of the sudden death of veteran championship golfer and International Country Club golf course superintendent Rick Wakefield. Mr. Wakefield died of a sudden heart attack at his home on Saturday, Aug. 19.

Rick Wakefield brought a player's perspective to his service at the Fairfax club as he had competed with considerable success in many Virginia, Middle Atlantic, and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America events over the years. The VGCSA extends its deepest sympathy to the Wakefield family.

Memorial Services for Rick Wakefield were held at Moser Funeral Home on Thursday, August 24, 2006. There was a reception held at International Country Club following the service.

### From the Washington Post:

#### Richard V. Wakefield, (Age 47)



Beloved husband of "Moose Muffin" and loving father of "Pop Dude" and "Boomer" on August 19, 2006 at Fauquier Hospital, Warrenton, VA. He was born on January 6, 1959 in Arlington, VA the son of Paul Alan Wakefield and Mary Kathleen Reichman Wakefield, who preceded him in death. Rick was a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, a member of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America and a third generation nurseryman. He is survived by his wife, Stacie Ann Wakefield; two children, Dallas Tye Wakefield (fiancee, Holly) of Herndon, VA and Jennifer Kathleen Wakefield of Warrenton. Also survived by two brothers, Harold (Maria) Wakefield of Lebanon, PA and Paul Alan Wakefield of Virginia Beach, VA. Additional survivors include his father and mother-in-law, Howard and Ellen Smith; and in-laws, Susan Wakefield, Alisa and Michael Rooney, Steve Smith, Aimee and Michael Preast, Anthony and Lisa Smith; 22 nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Robert Malcolm Wakefield. Memorial Services were held on Thursday, August 24, 2006 in Warrenton. A reception followed at the International Country Club.

### Richard V. Wakefield Memorial Fund

In memory of Rick, the Richard V. Wakefield Memorial Fund has been established.

#### Contributions may be made to:

Richard V. Wakefield Memorial Fund, c/o Cardinal Bank,  
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### What Brand Name means for the Turf Industry

With more chemicals coming off patents and companies making generic products for the turf industry, I have heard both sides of the debate regarding brand name versus generic. Over the years, I have even sold some of the generics and have heard everything from they work OK, to they do not work as long. A lot of you have tried them and have come back to the name brand product because of more control. I have talked with most of the big name brand companies to find out why their products cost more.

Let us start out with the people who support the products in your area. If you have a problem with a disease or their product, these representatives can be there in 24 hours, or less, to help you through it. They are technically-trained and their background is from the turf industry so they know what they are talking about. These representatives do seminars and one-on-one meetings throughout the year to keep you up-to-date on anything new in the industry.

To bring a new compound to your shop door costs about 150 million dollars. This does not count the many compounds the companies buy, test, and ones that do not make the cut. Bottom line they are working to bring you new products to use. The costs to register a new product and keep other products registered are very expensive, because the EPA is very strict about the effect on the environment. These products are tried and true with improvements of some of the products to make them better or easier to use. These products are tested by you, the consumer, and numerous universities around the country to make sure they do what they say. Every company gives a guaranteed satisfaction of their product when used properly, according to the directions on the label.

Let us not forget how the companies support all of our associations, local and national. All of you have seen their presence and see what they do for us. They have web sites, publications and 800 numbers to help you get plenty of information much easier.

I know some of you do not like the points programs some of the companies have and would rather have lower prices, but the reality is these programs are not likely to go away. Use them to your advantage, office products, airline tickets, hotel reservations, register for the GCSAA national. Some of you have told me some great ideas on you use them. Use them for employee of the month gifts, Christmas gifts and I am sure there are other great uses that you can come up with to make it worth your while.

In closing, these companies do so much to support and bring new products to you to use that will further the future of our industry. Brand name products cost more for several reasons. Their representatives are technically-trained; provide service within 24 hours; and provide one-on-one meetings. These companies also spend a great deal to ensure quality products through testing, and, most of all, provide guaranteed satisfaction of their products.



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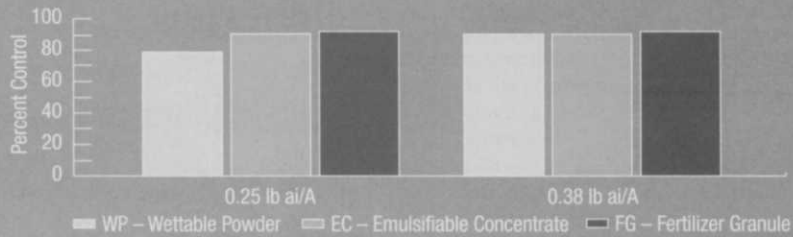
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## Maryland Turfgrass '07 Conference & Trade Show Stamp Student Union University of Maryland at College Park

The 30th Annual Conference & Trade Show of the Maryland Turfgrass Council will be held again on the campus of the University of Maryland on January 17th & 18th, 2007. Encompassing the Grand Ballroom, Hoff Theater, Colony Ballroom and several meeting rooms of the Adele Stamp Student Union, Turfgrass '07 will feature two days of educational seminars, workshops and an industry-oriented trade show.

Originally begun in 1972 when a small group of professional turf managers organized the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC), the group has grown into a regionally significant 'umbrella group' that unites the interests of individuals, vendors, organizations and agencies to promote turfgrass research and education in Maryland. Each year, the Annual Conference & Trade Show provides a unique opportunity for turfgrass managers to interact and learn about new concepts, products and improvements in their industry. The conference historically was held in Baltimore, however, due to increasingly high costs for meeting at the Convention Center the MTC elected to relocate the conference to the Stamp Student Union in 2006.

Unlike previous Maryland Turfgrass Conferences, the first morning will feature a symposium and three workshops. The "Fungicide Spray Technology Symposium" is unlike any other offered nationally. It will feature the leaders in turfgrass-related fungicide application technology research. Their research efforts have disclosed many new insights on improving fungicide performance, but have also revealed that many widely accepted views and concepts on nozzles, spray volume, and surfactant selection have been counterproductive. If your facility budgets for significant fungicide usage you need to attend this symposium, regardless of whether you are a golf course superintendent, sports turf facility manager or LCO.

A 'Basic Turfgrass Management Workshops' has not been offered at the Maryland turf conference in over 25 years. This "Turfgrass 101" learning experience will provide attendees with the basic knowledge requirements for managing turfgrasses, regardless of your commercial interest. It will be taught by Dr. Cale Bigelow from Purdue University. Dr. Bigelow is a nationally renowned educator with "real world" experience with Mid-Atlantic growing conditions and challenges. Basic mowing, irrigation and fertility practices as well as species selection and pest management will be discussed. This workshop is a "MUST" for new employees and for office personnel. Even experienced turfgrass professionals will benefit from a refresher course and may be surprised to learn how some aspects of managing turfgrass has changed dramatically in recent years.

The 'Turfgrass Technicians Workshops' is a joint effort between the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Maryland Cooperative Extension. The workshop provides an overview of nutrient management concepts to include understanding a fertilizer label, measuring a lawn, sampling soil, understanding soil test results and spreader calibration. This workshop is great for new employees, and because it is offered in English and Spanish, it provides a fabulous opportunity to train workers who are learning to speak English.

The "Mid-Atlantic Turf Equipment & Manager Workshop" is a special opportunity for mechanics, parts distributors, equipment sales people and others to get together and talk about issues in their profession. This year's workshop will feature Mr. Phil Gallahan from E-Z-Go Golf Carts, who will provide a seminar on golf cart repair and maintenance. Following these workshops, we will have breakout sessions for individuals interested in golf course and turfgrass management, sports turf and orna-

mentals (Thursday only). We have invited leading national scientists and extension educators to provide our attendees the best possible learning and information exchange opportunities in turfgrass management in the Mid-Atlantic Region. This year, 46 speakers are scheduled for Turfgrass '07. While many presenters are drawn from the ranks of U.M. faculty and state agencies, several academics from other Universities are invited to present research findings and new ideas. Among them are researchers from the Kansas State University, Ohio State University, Penn State University, Purdue University, University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts, and the United States Department of Agriculture. From the University of Maryland, Dr's Jennifer Becker, Mark Carroll, Peter Dernoeden, Kevin Mathias, Joe Sullivan and Ms. Betty Marose will present their research and extension experiences from the past year. Between 4:00-6:00 PM on Wednesday (Jan. 17), a reception in the Grand Ballroom trade show will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and other complimentary refreshments.

Although the annual Conference and Trade Show is one of the few high-profile events sponsored by MTC each year, the group is a major supporter of turfgrass research and scholarships at the University. In recent years, MTC has contributed over \$200,000 to the Univ. of Maryland Foundation and the Paint Branch Turf Research Facility in College Park- both of which have helped make the U.M. turf research program one of the most productive in the nation. Currently, the MTC is working to sponsor a comprehensive demographic and economic analysis of the Maryland turfgrass industry, which is now estimated to be the State's largest agricultural enterprise with a total value of nearly \$2 billion.

The MTC website [www.md-turf-council.org](http://www.md-turf-council.org) hosts numerous Maryland extension publications, links and other information to assist turfgrass managers. It also includes program and registration information for Turfgrass '07.

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## Schedule

**November Golf**  
**November 14, 2006**  
**Lakewood Country Club**

**Annual Meeting**  
**and Board Elections**  
**December 7, 2006**  
**Bethesda Country Club**

**March '07**  
**Education Seminar**  
**Thursday, March 22, 2007**

### Bullets from the Board Room

- The deadline for MAAGCS scholarship applications is October 20, 2006
- MAAGCS 2006 income through August is down due to lower than anticipated advertising, dues renewals and new members, but expenses are also down
- MAAGCS BOD and IAC candidates are needed.
- With the help of Rick Fritz, Bayer Environmental Science has donated \$2,000.00 to the MAAGCS Scholarship Fund
- Long - time MAAGCS accountant Jeff Yingling is retiring
- MAAGCS March Conference is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2007
- The EPA is discussing a ban on MSMA

## News & Notes

### New Members

Matthew Palm  
 The Links at Challellon Class A

### Condolences

To the family and friends of Rick Wakefield, CGSC, who passed away from a heart attack.

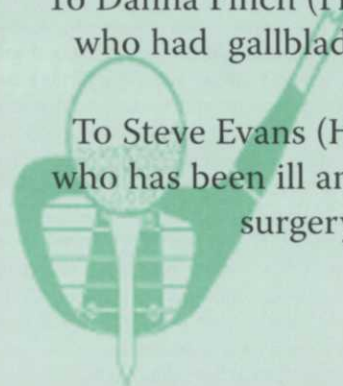
To the family and friends of Todd Gribbling whose mother passed away of heart problems.

### Get Well Soon

To Wayne Finch (Finch Services) who had an appendectomy in August and a kidney removed in September.

To Danna Finch (Finch Services) who had gallbladder surgery

To Steve Evans (Hobits Glen) who has been ill and undergone surgery.





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