



TURFGRASS MATTERS

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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Annual Election Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held on December 7, 2006 at Bethesda Country Club. President Tom Ritter, CGCS called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. President Ritter welcomed everyone, commented on the challenging, stressful, but rewarding year. He thanked all of the Board members for their contributions, he thanked all of the superintendents who hosted an event in 2006, he thanked the affiliates for their continued support and contribution, he thanked all Superintendents and Assistants for their attendance throughout the year and a special thanks to MAAGCS Executive Secretary Theresa Baria for her excellent work and support of the association.

Golf Committee Chairman, Bill Augustin, presented Mark Kingora with the 2006 MAAGCS Player of the Year Award.

A motion was made by Walter Montross, CGCS, MG, to dispense with the reading of the 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Quent Baria and passed by unanimous decision.

Education Chairman, Bryan McFerren, presented a MAAGCS scholarship to William Soles, who is currently enrolled at the Pennsylvania State University and employed at Eagle's Landing Golf Course.

A motion was made by Walter Montross, CGCS, MG, to dispense with the reading of Officer and Director Annual Reports. The motion was seconded by Bill Neus, CGCS, and passed by unanimous decision.

President Ritter described the proposed bylaw changes that would replicate the definitions of members as stated in the bylaws of the GCSAA. Class B Memberships were changed to Class SM. A definition of a golf course superintendent was added as follows, "A golf course superintendent is one who is entrusted with the management and operation of the tract of land defined as a golf course, including involvement in construction and maintenance of golf courses and related equipment".

Election results were presented by Past President, Drew Scully, CGCS. His nominating Committee consisted of Bill Neus and Steve Evans.

The newly elected
2007 MAAGCS Board of Directors:

Officers

President, Randall Pinckney, Manor Country Club
Vice President, Mark Kingora, Bethesda Country Club
Secretary/Treasurer, Bryan McFerren, NOVA Regional Park Authority

Directors

Bill Augustin, Country Club of Maryland (1-year term)
Mike Augustin, Belle Haven Country Club (1-year term)
Quent Baria, Towson Golf & Country Club
Jay Nalls, Norbeck Country Club (1-year term)
Scott Wunder, Piney Branch Golf & Country Club (2-year term)

President Ritter presented a plaque to Past President Drew Scully for his years of MAAGCS service.

Kevin Smith, Davisson Golf, won the 50/50.

The gavel was passed from Tom Ritter, CGCS, to the new President Randall Pinckney. Randall reflected upon his past years of service and gave an overview of the year to come. President Pinckney adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President
Mark Kingora

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

For those who don't know me, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Randall Pinckney and I'm currently the Golf Course Superintendent at Manor Country Club in Rockville, Maryland where I've been for the past three years. I've been working in the golf course maintenance profession for 15 years. I've been a MAAGCS member for 9 years, and a Board of Director for the last 4. I received my turf education from the Pennsylvania State University, and my wife Erin and I currently reside in Urbana, MD.

From weed-eating streams and raking bunkers, to now managing large teams of employees and seeing a golf course through construction and grow-in, I'm fortunate to have learned from some of the best in our business. We all work in one of the hardest areas to grow turf in the world (the Mid-Atlantic region), and the expectation and demand for better conditions from our members and owners is always increasing. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents has been a network of turf industry professionals who I have relied upon for education, camaraderie and personal development. We all face similar dilemmas while managing golf courses and it's fortunate to have a network of people who can provide insight and support, and act as emotional release for you from day-to-day life and career stresses. 2007 is going to be an exciting year for the MAAGCS; we have a good line-up for our golf meeting sites and education. As a MAAGCS member, please make a concerted effort to attend the meetings this year. Share your stories of the profession, learn from others and create the fellowship, it can only benefit your career.

I would like to thank Past President Tom Ritter, CGCS and past Board of Director Rich Sweeney, CGCS for their efforts and dedication to MAAGCS in 2006. To the Board of Directors, I welcome our newly-elected colleagues Scott Wunder and Jay Nalls. I would also like to thank our affiliate Class "F" members for your generous support and sponsorship in the MAAGCS and look forward to continuing and enhancing our relationships.

This year we need to work together with other regional Green Industry leaders so that our collective efforts can create awareness of the issues that pertain to our industry, as well as give us a stronger voice in educating and influencing legislative decision-makers. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents has allowed me to create a network of colleagues, mentors and life-long friendships and it's an honor to serve as President of the MAAGCS for 2007. Thank You!

Randall S. Pinckney
President
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents



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Turfgrass Matters
Quent Baria, CGCS - Editor

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Past President's Report
Tom Ritter, CGCS

As I look back on my year as President in 2006, MAAGCS experienced some changes, some highs & lows and other situations that remained status quo. Here is a look back from my perspective on some items of note from last year.

Changes included a Board of Directors that shrunk from 11 to 9 members. We seemed to operate well with 9 serving on the Board but once again, the difficulty remains that these men shoulder the majority of the load of their committee chair assignment. If we could gather a little more support from the membership in 2007, I'm sure it would be very much appreciated. A time commitment as minor as offering to sell 50/50 tickets at meetings or offering to pick up hole sponsorship signs for the golf chairman would be helpful.

The meeting schedule was restructured in an attempt to accommodate the membership by eliminating the historically poorly attended June & early September golf meetings with satisfactory results. Chapter meeting attendance was 12% higher in 2006 than it was in 2005. It appears that by avoiding meeting dates during the hectic period from mid-May to mid-September, it was possible for more members to attend chapter meetings. Hopefully, this trend will continue in 2007. The March education seminar continued it's strong appeal to the membership with over 100 attendees again in 2006. The summer picnic, which had experienced declining attendance for several years was combined with the UMD Turfgrass Field Day and was a tremendous success with over 100 in attendance at that event as well. On the flip side, the net income from the Stewards of the Chesapeake tournament fell far short of projections.

Discounted corporate memberships were offered for the first time last year. The larger member companies were able to get more of their employees involved in MAAGCS without any negative financial impact on the association.

I was proud to be able to present a check for \$7000.00 to Dr. Dernoeden to use in his research efforts at the University of Maryland. I believe this to be a small price to pay for the research driven technical support that Dr. Dernoeden so willingly provides to Superintendents in the mid-Atlantic year after year.

It was an honor having served as President in 2006. I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire Board of Directors and Executive Secretary Theresa Baria for their support, encouragement, guidance, commitment, and flow of ideas throughout my term on the Board, and in particular, this past year as President.

Thank you also to all you members who participated or assisted in any way last year to make this a better association. Forms of support can range from meeting attendance to committee service to advertising to writing an article for the newsletter and the list goes on. Some of these seem like small matters, but collectively they all make a positive difference. As I officially finish my term in 2007 as Immediate Past President, I want to congratulate and look forward to serving my last year on the Board with the newly elected Officers and Directors. They are a talented group of individuals that you have elected. Consider lending them your ideas and support to make us a better association this year.

Finally, I want to wish all MAAGCS members a very successful and happy 2007!

GOLF REPORT

Oct. 24, 2006

Holly Hills CC

MAAGCS Championship

Michael Legere, CGCS, Superintendent

Gross 1st Dave Horton	Net 1st Ken Ingram
2nd Mark Kingora	2nd Bill Neus

Affiliate

Gross 1st Grant Friend	Net 1st Mark Merrick
2nd Charles Poole	2nd Joe Herkalo

Nov. 14, 2006

Lakewood CC

Chris Ayers, CGCS, Superintendent

Net Team

Dean Graves	Mike Huey
Steve Slominski	Andy Sheehan

Net 67

December

Golfer of the Year

Mark Kingora

News & Notes

NEWS AROUND THE MID-ATLANTIC

Katelyn M. Ritter, daughter of Tom Ritter, CGCS is one of the twenty 2006 GCSAA Legacy Award recipients. The scholarship is administered by the Environmental Institute of Golf and is supported by Syngenta. Katelyn is a junior at Penn St. University majoring in Architectural Engineering.

New Members

Erik Carlson, Class D (Student) U of MD
 George Casto, Chestnut Ridge CC, Class C
 Brandon Collins, Country Club at Woodmore, Class B
 David Ediger, Chevy Chase Club, Class C
 Dann Finch, Finch Services, Class F
 Andrew Harrison, LESCO, Class F
 Michael Hawley, Sligo Creek Golf Course, Class B
 Bernard Hipkins, Frances Scott Key Golf Course, Class B
 Mark Jewell, Rocky Gap Resort, Class A
 Dustin Knoch, Beechtree Golf Club, Class C
 Christopher Lauer, Class F, Finch Services
 Raymond Nash, Dominion Valley CC, Class A
 Dave Nehila, Genesis Turf, Class F
 Ray Pigati, U of MD Class D (Student)
 Charles Sylvester, Standard Supplies, Inc., Class F

Thanks to our Contributors Towards our Environmental Research and Government Issues:

Michael Augustin, Belle Haven Country Club
 Chris Ayers, Lakewood Country Club
 George Barger, Nutramax Agriculture, Inc.
 Scott Furlong, Robert Trent Jones
 John Haley, Hermitage Country Club
 Sean Fifer, Florantine of MD
 Gary Harshman, Twin Shields GC
 Ralph Meola, Elkridge Club
 Mark Merrick, Syngenta
 Randall Pinckney, Manor CC
 Robert Rosier, Manor CC

GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting

Tom Ritter, CGCS

The 15th annual Chapter Delegates meeting was held October 13th-15th in Kansas City. The meeting is designed as a means for GCSAA to communicate to each of the 104 affiliated chapters regarding current programs, initiatives and policies of importance to its members. In return, it provides an opportunity for chapters to express viewpoints; ideas and concerns they may have that are relevant to the profession, the industry and the game to GCSAA. Delegates were also able to meet with GCSAA board candidates to better understand their platforms and opinions on a variety of topics.

The financial conversations centered on the establishment of long-term dues pricing strategy. At the request of the Delegates, the board and staff presented a proposal that would tie the establishment of membership dues to the Consumer Price Index. Historically, the association has enacted a dues increase in larger increments on average every five to seven years. The result has been a loss of members immediately following these increases. There was widespread agreement at the meeting that smaller dues increases would be more easily absorbed at the facility level and less likely to result in membership declines. If enacted, the GCSAA Board of Directors would vote on a dues increase every 2 years. A dues increase would not be automatic and would not be allowed to exceed the Consumer Price Index total for the previous 2-year period.

Tied to the discussion of revenues was an examination of GCSAA membership numbers. From a high of more than 22,000 in 2001, the association's membership has declined approximately 10% to just over 20,000 today. There was agreement that the situation has been created in large part by a weak golf economy and the implementation of member standards. Staff presented a seven-phased membership growth and recruitment campaign enacted late last year. Delegates supported the efforts, realizing such an initiative will take time to yield results and must be long-term in nature. They were especially supportive of the GCSAA field staff pilot program and encouraged strong consideration for expanding it in the near future.

The liveliest debate was on GCSAA's philosophy regarding the positioning of the association and its membership classes. Delegates shared a variety of opinions, but ultimately agreed that for membership standards to have value in the marketplace, then they must be promoted externally. There was unanimous support that greater resources be dedicated to marketing the association, with a focus on Class A as being the preferred membership class. It was noted, however, that promoting Class A does not mean that marketing other membership classes should not be part of the program.

Noting that chapters will be an integral component in the success of revenue generation, membership growth and retention, and marketing efforts, discussion also included an examination of chapter effectiveness. Specifically, the delegates were charged with providing the board and staff direction as to how the association could best invest resources to enhance chapter operations. The top three items were: a.) membership recruitment and retention; b.) chapter executive development and support; c.) chapter meeting effectiveness (attendance, timing, satisfaction, value, etc.). It was the consensus that many of the issues were interrelated and thus could be addressed if programs and services are developed and coordinated appropriately. Once again, support for expanding the field staff pilot program was communicated, and suggested as a means to implement effectiveness programs.

Delegates also expressed interest in providing support to GCSAA's advocacy efforts. They were briefed on the process the association follows for commenting to the EPA on product re-registration. The process includes an element for member input to GCSAA actions, plus the opportunity for chapters and members to become directly engaged as well.

Once again, I came away from this meeting feeling very proud of our national association and appreciative for all that they do to enhance the Superintendent profession. They have a firm grasp on the Superintendent profession, the game itself, the business side of golf and how they all relate to the Superintendents and their career.

MAAGCS 2007 Schedule

February 22

Anaheim Reception, Crowne Plaza Resort

March 22

Education Seminar, U of MD

April 2

Superintendent/Assistant, The Elkridge Club

April 30

Superintendent/Pro, Piney Branch Golf Club

June 26

Skeet Shoot, Prince Georges Trap & Skeet Center

August 6

Stewards of the Chesapeake, Chevy Chase Club

October 15

Annual Championship, Columbia Country Club

Bullets from the Board Room

- The Turf Research Facility at the University of Maryland is in need of various types of turf equipment.
- Mark Merrick joins Ed Walker and Jean Scott on the IAC
- Credit Card payments to be accepted at Association Meetings
- Home contact information is omitted from the MAAGCS directory due to privacy laws, however all member information is on file at the MAAGCS office.
- MAAGCS March Conference is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2007
- No dues increase for 2007.

Generic Chemistry – The Other Side Of The Coin

Over the past few years, much attention has been drawn to the debate concerning patented chemistry versus generic chemistry. In the September/October 2006 issue of "Turfgrass Matters", an article was published, "What Brand Name Means For The Turf Industry". To give the other side of the argument, I have contacted those who actually produce and market generic chemistry to the industry.

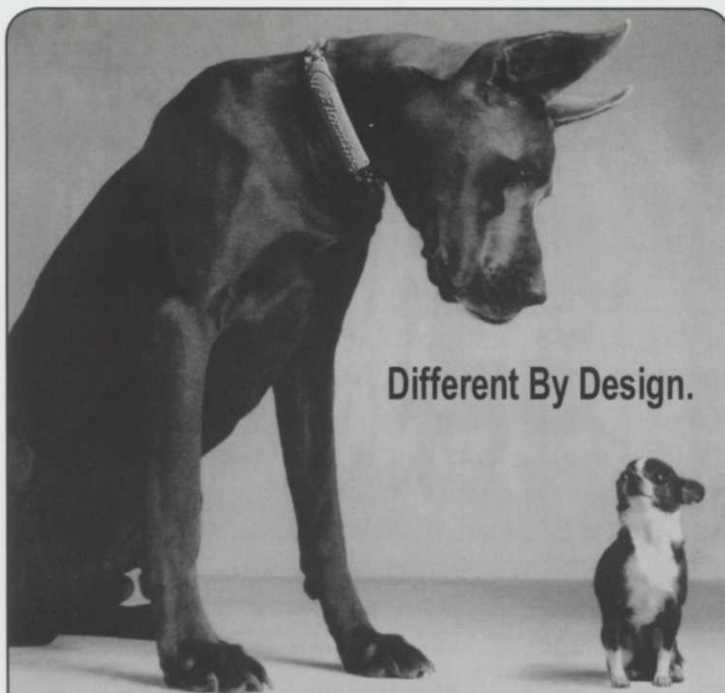
Bob Yarborough, T&O Business Manager for Advan, LLC., had this to say about the generic debate. "Patents protect for a return on investment to develop new chemistry. The EPA protects by setting legal standards and regulations everyone must meet, but once protected data ages to time limits set by the EPA, a generic company can ask to cite this data with an 'Offer To Pay'. It's not free. The generic producer pays the basic registrant his money, then can meet the same standards as the basic to get an EPA approved label, and sell it. Offering an alternative is what it's all about. Look at the prescription drug industry, same thing. Freedom of choice at work! You decide". Additional information on Advan can be found at www.advanllc.com, or by calling 800-250-5024.

Etigra™ Chief Operating Officer, Randy Canady, had a few points to make concerning this issue. "Superintendents today have the option of a post-patent alternative for the majority of the products most often used on a course. As patents face expiration, post-patent experts begin the process of determining the chemical composition of an active ingredient and developing an equivalent formation of the branded version. To be registered, they must meet the regulatory standard established under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), to qualify as a generic product, i.e., that our version is 'substantially similar or identical' to the branded version. This regulatory protection from the EPA ensures that the generic product is at least comparable to the branded version. In addition, often there have been significant advances in active ingredient synthesis and formulation and production technologies since the branded product was first launched. These advances can lead to a post-patent product with fewer impurities, an improved formulation and a more efficient manufacturing process than the branded alternative". Additional information on Etigra can be found at www.etigra.com, or by calling 877-637-6728.

"Remember that generic pesticides operate under the same laws and regulations as pharmaceuticals in the U.S.", states Russ Mitchell, Product Director for Quali-Pro. "They must be 'substantially similar', meaning the active ingredient has to be exactly the same. The only difference can be in the inerts which are the emulsifiers, surfactants, stability agents, the micron size of the active ingredient, in other words the formulation". When it comes to customer service and support, Russ sums the issue up rather well for Quali-Pro, Advan, and Etigra. "We do have reps in the field that will come to your location along with our distributor partner sales representatives. We stand behind all our products just like the original manufacturers do. We guarantee our product will do what the label says it will do. We also support the major organizations in the turf industry and advertise in most of the national magazines. We are here for the long term". Additional information on Quali-Pro can be found at www.quali-pro.com, or by calling 800-979-8994.

In conclusion, we live in the United States of America, which grants us certain privileges, primarily, freedom of choice. Concerning generic chemistry, the research is available, the registrations are in place, the technical support is in the market and the association support is being demonstrated throughout the industry. These are the facts that I have personally experienced. You have a choice, which is what it's all about. It is up to you to decide whether or not to exercise that choice. That's what being an American is all about!

Joe Herkalo



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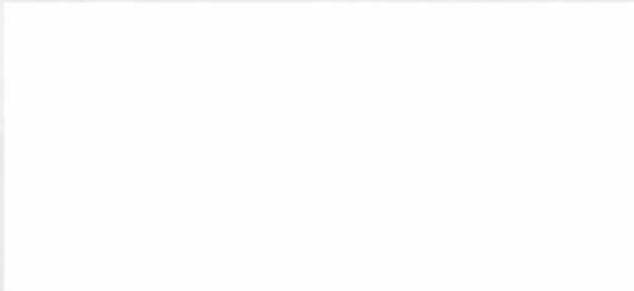
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