



TURFGRASS MATTERS

July/August 2007

Volume 78, Number 3

2007 Stewards of the Chesapeake

August 6, 2007, Chevy Chase Club

Joe Herkalo

On August 6, 2007, over 100 golfers, all affiliated in some way with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, had the privilege of playing the Chevy Chase Club in Chevy Chase, MD. It was a very sunny day, and it was hot! If you did not have the chance to make it down, and were battling the day to day issues common across this region, fear not, you are not alone. Even a place like Chevy Chase has their problems. I am fairly certain I saw a puddle on a cart path, but don't quote me on that.

The MAAGCS would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Dean Graves, Golf Course Manager, and his three assistants, Chris Harriman, Dave Ediger and Jim Weaver, and the entire maintenance staff. The course was in magnificent shape as always.

Thank you also to Head Golf Professional Jim Fitzgerald and his Assistant Pro Nathan Pressnal and their staff. The tournament went off without a hitch.

Last but absolutely not least, thank you to Luke "Ace" Oboyle, General Manager of Chevy Chase Club. According to sources on deep background, Luke had been working very hard on his game as of late, slipping down the road to Columbia CC to practice below the radar. All the hard work paid off as Luke scored a hole-in-one during the event on hole number 15. How about that? Awesome!

For the general record, fine events like these could never happen if it wasn't for the generous contributions of all our sponsors which include Title Sponsors Bayer Environmental Science and Syngenta Professional Products. Additional sponsors were BASF, Cleary Chemicals, Cypress Turf Farms, Davisson Golf, Finch Services, Genesis Turfgrass, Harrell's Turf Specialty, G. L. Cornell, Genesis Turfgrass, Lesco, Plant Food Products, Sports Aggregates, Summit Hall Turf Farm, Turf Equipment, UAP, and Westwood Country Club.

The winners of the 2007 Stewards of the Chesapeake are...

Team Winners

1st Gross
Piney Branch Golf Club
Score 114
Scott Wunder, Cliff Trone,
Mike Zgozski, Bill Hoffman

2nd Gross
Schlegel Golf Course Design
Score 119
Dan Schlegel, Mark Peck,
Fred Heuval, Terben Agesen

3rd Gross
Leisure World of MD
Score 119
Scott Wagner, Jim Johnson,
Josh Johnson, Bill Shirk

1st Net
Lesco
Score 94
Andrew Harrison, Shawn Smith,
Rob Larsen, Mark Jewell

2nd Net
CC of Maryland/Genesis Turfgrass
Score 100
Bill Augustin, Chris Paul,
Brad Herle, Mike Del Biondo

3rd Net
Evergreen CC
Score 101
David Anderson, Chris Hall,
Brian Dolieslaiger, Elket Wilfimer

Closest to the Pin

Hole #3 Kevin Smith
Hole #9 Rick Maranto
Hole #12 Bob Sturgis
Hole #15 Luke Oboyle (Hole-In One)

Long Drive

Hole #8 Eric Christensen
Hole #18 Bernie Hipkins

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I am writing this message we are experiencing 70 degree high temperatures, we've all just received some much needed rain and it's August! (Not too many Superintendents that can complain about that). We recently held our Stewards of The Chesapeake Tournament hosted by Chevy Chase Club. It was an excellent day and turnout and I would like to thank all those who attended. Dean Graves, CGCS and his staff had the golf course in pristine shape. I am looking forward to the rest of our MAAGCS golf schedule: a joint tournament with the Greater Washington Association of Golf Course Superintendents at Andrew's Air Force Base on September 11th, and our Annual Championship which will be hosted by Columbia Country Club on October 15th. Call Theresa when you get the notice for these events because spots will fill quickly.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our Class "F" members (vendors). Your support for the MAAGCS has been generous. Being on the Board of Directors has opened my eyes to how supportive vendors are to the association. It's not just about business; it's about friendship and relationship building. Thank You.

Now that the days are getting shorter and we are approaching cooler weather. I would hope to see more Superintendents and/or Assistants attending our future meetings. Our last few meetings have been well attended, and that should continue. There is so much knowledge to gain, and professional contacts to make by attending these meetings that will benefit you and your facilities. We are all here to help one another. Throughout my career there's been several times that I've picked up the MAAGCS directory and called a fellow Superintendent to ask advice on any matter. Everyone I've ever called has taken the time to help. This is why I'm proud to be a member and President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Thank You,
Randall S. Pinckney
MAAGCS President

MAAGCS will be awarding two scholarships this year totaling \$3,500. You must be enrolled in a two or four year turf program and work for a MAAGCS Superintendent member. Last year we had only one applicant. In saying this, please take the time to fill out the scholarship application as your chances of winning are very good. You may obtain all information regarding the scholarship and application by contacting Theresa Baria with the MAAGCS. Don't Delay, all applications are due by 10/20/07.

Scott Wunder, Education Chairman



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Theresa Baria, Executive Secretary

Turfgrass Matters

Quent Baria-CGCS, Editor

It all started with a routine trip to the Doctor. I was having knee problems, and wanted to get an oddly shaped mole removed from my back. So my Doctor removed the mole and said he would send it for tests. At this point I had no worries about what the outcome would be; cancer was barely part of my vocabulary. About a week later on Friday, October 13th, 2006 I received a phone call from the Doctor's office, saying they needed to see me. I started asking questions and they kept saying they needed to see me. Finally they put my Doctor on the phone and he proceeded to tell me that the mole from my back was a Malignant Melanoma, the deadliest type of skin cancer. My Doctor suggested that I come in and we could talk about what needed to be done. I went to the office later that afternoon. We discussed what the next several steps would be and then decided on a plan of action for surgery and oncology care. I chose Dr. Steven Brand as my surgeon. Dr. Brand was to perform a wide excision on my back where the mole was removed, and a lymph node biopsy (cancer sometimes spreads through your lymphatic system). He would send the lymph nodes to pathology for testing while I was in surgery. If pathology reports showed cancerous cells he would take the whole set of lymph nodes for further evaluation. If there were no cancerous cells in the biopsy, they would conclude surgery. There was a possibility that the biopsy could show a false negative, and further testing would show involvement.

Surgery was scheduled for October 31st. After pre-operative tests including CAT and PET scans, there was no sign that the cancer had spread. The morning of surgery a radiologist performed a lymph scintigraphy. This exam would show the sentinel lymph nodes, meaning the closest set of lymph nodes to the mole. They injected a radioactive isotope around the site where the mole was removed. The tests showed activity around the area of my left axillary (or underarm). Dr. Brand successfully removed the area around the site of the mole, and performed the biopsy which showed no involvement.

A few days post surgery I received another call that further testing showed minimal involvement in the lymphatic system. I would need to go back for surgery on Friday, November 3. They removed 16 lymph nodes, of those 3 contained cancerous cells. My surgeon had done all he could do, and now it was time to work with an Oncologist to find the best treatment for my situation.

My wife Betsy works for the National Cancer Institute so she was able to get a lot of information from dependable scientists in the cancer field. We looked into doing clinical trials but I either did not qualify or they just didn't suit my situation. The only other 2 options were to do nothing or start an immune therapy, Interferon. I went to Dr. William Sharfman at Johns Hopkins to get a second opinion. Dr. Sharfman suggested the Interferon would be beneficial

given that my overall health was good and the chance for recurring melanoma is high. Now it was time for me to decide. I chose to go with the Interferon. Interferon is a man-made copy of a protein that is produced by the body in response to infection. It helps the immune system fight disease and may slow or stop the growth of cancer cells by making the cancer cells too weak to protect themselves from the immune system. The duration of my Interferon treatments will be one-year. The first 20 days I received a high dose through an IV. Over the next 48 weeks I will give myself an injection under the skin 3 times a week. Side effects from Interferon vary between individuals. Along with fatigue, my biggest side effect was a severe headache. Once controlled with medication headaches are tolerable. I also developed slight depression and was put on medication to help with that.

Life has gotten a lot better in these past couple of months, I am now through with the intravenous therapy, I no longer need to take the anti-depressant, started my injections, and I am feeling a lot better. Although my life will never be the same as it was on October 12, 2006 I have faith that this hurdle will be behind me January 8, 2008, My last injection of Interferon. I would like to take this time to say "Thanks" to all who expressed concern, and a special "Thanks" to the entire Greens Staff at Bethesda Country Club for their support.

Troy Brawner, Assistant Superintendant, Bethesda Country Club



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News & Notes

New Members

John T. Boore, III, Class C, Maryland National Golf Club
 Brian Decker, Class C, Burning Tree Club
 Bob Gray, Class F, Envogurad/3 Tier
 Ryan Kraushofer, Class C, The Timbers at Troy
 Steve McDonald, Class F, Turfgrass Disease Solutions, LLC
 Wylie Mitchell, Jr. Class D, Chevy Chase Club
 Dale Stevens, Class F, Oakwood Sod Farm
 Zachary Wignall, Class C, Beechtree Golf Club

Congratulations

Congratulations to MAAGCS Board member Michael Augustin and his wife Laura on the birth of their son. Chase Hamill Augustin arrived Tues Aug 21st at 8:24pm weighing in at 7 lbs 5 oz and 20 inches long. Everyone is happy & healthy!

Get Well

Gerry Hasbargen, former golf course superintendent at Prospect Bay CC and a long-time MAAGCS member recently underwent liver transplant surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. The operation went well and Gerry expected to have a good recovery.

Rhys Arthur's (Sports Aggregates) wife, Christine, had a horse riding accident, and broke several ribs. However, she is recovering well.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dean (Chevy Chase CC) and Margie Graves on the death of Margie's sister, Marian Fourney.

Moving on:

Paul Masimore, CGCS, is leaving Marlton Golf Club as of August 17th to accept the position as Agronomist with a golf course construction company in South Korea. Good Luck Paul.



Jay Nalls presenting MTC with a \$1,000 check that our members donated towards their survey

A TRIBUTE TO A DEDICATED TURF ENTREPRENEUR

On July 16, 2007, a memorial service of some significance was held at the American Legion Post 60 for MAAGCS member, and Past President, Robert C "Bob" Milligan, who passed away on Father's Day. For many of the Mid-Atlantic members, there is no recollection of ever meeting or seeing Bob, but for years he was a sustaining member, and a dedicated attendee, who was a Director, and eventually President of the MAAGCS in 1969.

Bob was proud to wear his Green Blazer that was presented to him on the occasion of his Presidency of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. On one occasion, Bob attended a PGA event in which Arnold Palmer was a contestant, and as he stood along the ropes behind a Tee, Arnie was teeing off, and upon completion, he walked up to Bob and spoke briefly about the Blazer. It was similar to the one worn by Pro's of that day, and Arnie mistook Bob for someone he thought he recognized.

I am pleased to report that the Mid-Atlantic Association was represented by myself and Kevin Smith from Davisson Golf, as well as retired member from Glen Dale GC, Mr. Bernie Heilig at the memorial service. A very well attended and solemn service was provided, including a Military Honor Guard ceremony for Bob, who was a Marine during WWII, bidding a fitting farewell to a very fine gentleman, whom I am very proud to have known as an associate, and customer, over many years. I've never met a more humble, genteel man than Bob, who was so quiet at times, it's hard to imagine that he had so active a life. There are attributes to Bob that I've never known until July 16th, and I've known him for over 40 years; he was never one to boast about his accomplishments, which included his designing and building 3 of his own golf courses in 50 years. Today, I'd describe him as entrepreneurial, as he had a very full life that, among many other things, included his involvement as a golf course owner, manager, architect, and proudly, as a Golf Course Superintendent. Bob has two sons, Tom & Mike, both of whom manage golf courses in Laurel, Maryland and in Frederick, respectively. When I was a younger man in my twenties, Bob was a featured presenter as speaker at a few of our winter conferences; one in which he described his unique experiences as an owner, manager, and superintendent, and the challenges they presented him. Other than on that occasion, Bob never talked to me about any of his accomplishments, which were many, as I'd discovered about him on the occasion of this Memorial. To Bob's surviving family, I extend our condolences; he will be missed by this writer.....Dave Cammarota, Newsom Seed, Inc.

MAAGCS 2007 SCHEDULE

September 11, Joint Meeting with
 GWGCSA
 Andrews Air Force Base

October 15, Annual Championship
 Columbia Country Club

Want to attend a golf industry event abroad?

Bernhard & Co is sponsoring a trip for 10 GCSAA Class A members to England!

Ten GCSAA Class A members will travel to the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association's Turf Management Exhibition, Jan., 21-26, 08 in Harrogate, England.

Bernhard and Company, manufacturers of Express Dual and Anglemaster, is sponsoring the delegation for a second year as part of their ongoing educational initiative. They will cover airfare, accommodations, conference registration, education seminars and transportation. Delegates chosen will have the opportunity to attend Europe's largest golf and sports turf managers conference and exhibition. Attendees will participate in education seminars, network with greenkeepers from the UK and Europe, and visit several different styles of golf courses in England.

Register online at http://www.bernhard.co.uk/gcsaa_regform.0.html or call (888) 474-6348. Deadline for applications is 9/30/07. Chosen delegates will be notified by 11/15/07. Contact: Gina Putnam, Bernhard and Company Ltd., gina.putnam@bernhard.co.uk <mailto:gina.putnam@bernhard.co.uk>

McDonald & Sons Contribute to Newly Established U of MD Scholarship Fund

McDonald & Sons, Golf Course Builders, will contribute \$1,000.00 per year to the University of Maryland to help fund a newly established Golf Course Builders Association of America Foundation Scholarship.

Beginning Fall 2007, annual \$1000 scholarships are to be awarded to two students at UM. One scholarship will be given to a student enrolled in the 4-year golf course management program. The second scholarship, funded by a matching donation made by McDonald & Sons as a local GCBA member, will go to a student in the 2-year golf course management program at the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA). "We want to support our local industry and our local students," said Erik McDonald, vice-president of McDonald & Sons.

For more information contact: Sheila Brown at the University of Maryland at 301/405-2078.

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News from Paul Masimore !!!

So far I have found very similar maintenance issues to the ones we have in Maryland. The climate is very similar to ours. Today I am in the mountains at a course built on the side of a mountain. The cost for this course had to be up there. Even though the course is around 3 to 4 thousand feet it is very warm and very humid. We have Zoysia fairways and rough here with bluegrass tees and pennecross greens. Our main problem and immediate concern of the owners are, of course, the greens. The course is 4 or 5 years old with no thatch, very poor rooting and what appears to be summer stress syndrome. I have offered some suggestions and we will be implementing some right away and experimenting with others. The owner is very concerned about pleasing the member and improving these greens. Membership for this course is in the \$600,000 range so you can understand his concerns. Crystal Valley is an 18 hole facility. The owner was a doctor who owns a large hospital in the Seoul. Words can not describe the beautiful for this golf course. I will try to get pictures back when I figure out my new camera and laptop. Technology is very big here so this old fart has some catching up to do.

We have a full time staff of 21 at this club with 15 or so temporary labor brought in each day. My days are 10 to 12 hours with touring the courses 3 times a day for inspections with meetings after each inspection. We then meet with the owners staff 1 or 2 times each day. Conditioning issues are very intense here as you might expect with the cost of membership.

I just found out over lunch with the owner and club president that the special pines planted around the course cost between \$50,000 to \$200,000 to find, dig up and transplant to the golf course. They number in the hundreds and line every hole on the course. I finally took some photos and hope to find time to download them to my laptop. As soon as I do I will pass them along.

I do not have a permanent address as I am spending two days at each course and my cell phone does not work here either; I have to send it back for adjustments. I will be provided a cell phone from here soon. When I get settled I will pass my number on to those who are interested.

I have been asked about construction experience and it looks like I will be involved in that process today. We are following up on a bid for renovating some greens at another club. Right now my working life could not be better.



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The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendent's Skeet Shoot Tournament was held Tuesday, June 27th at the Prince George Trap and Skeet Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. The rain held off and a great time was had by all. Again, this year, a delicious lunch was provided by Red Hot and Blue.

The day was followed up by the Lewis Class Awards. Winners for the day were

Top Gun Flight:

- 1st - Ed Walker, Harrells Turf
- 2nd - Jeff Michel, M & M Consulting
- 3rd - Brian Ault, Ault, Clark & Associates

Second Flight:

- 1st - Steve Potter, Woodhold CC
- 2nd - James Masimore, Piney Branch GC
- 3rd - Mike Hutchison, Sports Aggregates

Third Flight:

- 1st - Scott Wunder, Piney Branch GC
- 2nd - Quent Baria, Towson Golf & CC
- 3rd - Sam Kessel, Newsom Seed

We would like to thank our title sponsors Syngenta and M & M Consulting. We would especially like to thank Rhys Arthur (Sports Aggregates) who again this year graciously hosted this event. Also, our additional sponsors for the day were Cleary Chemical, Davisson Golf, Egypt Farms, G. L. Cornell, Genesis Turfgrass, Harrell's Turf, Sports Aggregates, Turf Equipment, UAP.

Pictured left to Right Mike Hutchison, Jeff Michel, Ed Walker, Mike Evans and Keith Hughes



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