



TURFGRASS MATTERS

MAY/JUNE 2007

VOLUME 78, NUMBER 2

2007 SUPERINTENDENT / PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP APRIL 30, 2007 AT PINEY BRANCH GOLF CLUB



MAAGCS President Randall Pinckney presents the trophy to Super/Pro Net Champions Walter Montross & Glenn Brown

certain that a gang of humiliated golfers was going to get him sauced up and then bum rush him in the parking lot and drag his carcass all over God's country. Lucky for him nobody was sporting a 4x4 because a regular ride couldn't haul his 7'3", 415 pound frame. Thank you also to Scott's Assistants, Bob "The Hamburgler" Albert & Jamie "The Skoal Bandit" Masimore, and the entire crew as the course was in magnificent shape.

Thanks also to Jeff Zachman and the staff who ran a top notch golf tournament. Last, but absolutely not least, a huge thanks to Club Manager Aziz Iskander and Executive Chef Bobby White who laid out a killer spread. If you missed this day, you missed one outstanding day. Hopefully we will see you all at our next event. Thanks again to all who attended.

On Monday April 30th, the MAAGCS had the privilege of playing the 2007 Superintendent/Pro Championship at Piney Branch Golf Club in Hampstead, MD. I am happy to announce that our Host Superintendent, Scott "The Boss of the Moss" Wunder, is still alive. After some of those pin placements, I was



Scott Wunder (left) and Aziz Iskander

The Winners

Long Drive #2	Scott Wunder - 393 yards (Piney Branch GC)
Long Drive #14	Phil Bowers - 317 yards (Mount Vernon CC)
Closest To The Pin #7	Kevin Smith - 35'-7" (Finch Services)
Closest To The Pin #13	Rick Maranto - 3'-10" (South River Golf Links)
Closest To The Pin #16	Mark Kingora - 19'-7" (Bethesda CC)

Open Flight Net Champions

Jamie Galvin (USNA GC)	68
Seth Greenwood (Helena Chemical)	

Open Flight Gross Champions

Jim Cevone (Cervone Golf Architects)	80
Joe Herkalo (CJH Greens, Inc.)	

Super/Pro Net Champions

Walter Montross & Glenn Brown	69
Westwood CC	

Super/Pro Net Runners-Up

Rich Maranto & Mike Sabol	70
South River Golf Links	

Super/Pro Gross Champions

Ralph Meola & Joe Franz	73
The Elkridge Club	

Super/Pro Gross Runners-Up

John Dunker & Phil Bowers	74
Mount Vernon CC	

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another abnormal spring with snow on Easter and a very dry month of May it wouldn't be the Mid-Atlantic region if it weren't for inconsistent weather. At least for the most part the weather has been cooler. We recently had our Superintendent/Pro tournament which was hosted by Piney Branch Golf Club. I'd like to thank Scott Wunder and the staff at Piney Branch Golf Club for providing us a great day of camaraderie and enjoyment on their beautiful golf course. Our next meeting will be our 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot on June 28th at the Prince George's County Trap and Skeet Center. Our last two meetings will be golf meetings; "The Stewards of the Chesapeake" hosted by Chevy Chase Club, Dean Graves, CGCS Golf Course Superintendent on August 6th and the MAAGCS Annual Championship hosted by Columbia Country Club, Steve McCormick Golf Course Superintendent on October 15th. Once meeting announcements have been posted please respond with your entry to Theresa quickly for spots tend to fill rapidly for both of these golf events.

On another note, I posted a recent job referral for an Assistant Superintendent position. I did not receive one single resume or phone call about this position. I know many of you are in the same situation. Luckily, I do have one assistant already so I'm not complaining. I'm just surprised. Turf program admissions are down at universities and there seems to be a plethora of vacant assistant jobs available for the taking. This is only good news for those who can stick it out. I think most of us turf-heads worked at a golf course at a young age and liked it so much that you went to turf school and became an assistant. I remember over the last 10 years a lot of competition not for just Superintendent jobs, but also assistant jobs as well. With more vacant assistant jobs that should mean more available Superintendent jobs in the future. This is why it is important for you to make these meetings the MAAGCS offers. I hope everyone has an excellent summer and I look forward to seeing you at the meetings

Thank you!

Randall S. Pinckney
MAAGCS President



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Turfgrass Matters
Quent Baria, CGCS - Editor

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CLOSING A CHAPTER

by Bill Neus

A funny thing happened on the way to my career. It came to an end! Wasn't it just yesterday that I got out of the IAA, '76', and thought I knew everything? But it was only after several years as an assistant at the Naval Academy that I realized, now I definitely know everything. Only to find out during my first superintendent's job at Fauquier Springs CC, that I didn't know 'jack...', and would spend the rest of my career, just like the rest of us, searching for that holy grail of, providing the perfect golf course. Mike Larson put it best when he said, "There are only two types of superintendents, those who have lost grass and those who will.....". I can admit with great pride that I filled both roles admirably.

I've been more blessed than I deserve. During my twenty six years at Hobbits Glen, I've had the opportunity to build a new golf course, (Fairway Hills), essentially rebuild another and spend several years hosting a Champions Tour event on ESPN. But it's all the people that I've been around in this crazy business that have made it all such a wonderful memory. Working with Angelo Cammarota was like being with the 'Wizard of Oz'. Mike McKenzie taught me the importance of giving back to the MAAGCS. My long friendship with Chip McDonald showed me the combination of course design/construction and art. And to grow up in this business with mentors like, Orazi, Stagg, Thompson,



Watson, Shields, Hall, Kessel, Emerson, Fairbank, Barefoot, Drew, Miller, McClanahan, Dieter, Braun as well as many others, helped shape and guide me to any success I may have had and supported me when times were tough. I had my trusted circle, Potter, Montross, Renault, Larson, Cohoon, Wagner, Dietrich, Arther, Evans, Gilmore, who I could call to get the brutally honest truth about turf issues (or anything else for that matter). They all have eased my burden of uncertainty many times in the past. And speaking of easing burdens, what about our right arms (assistants), Chapman, Haber, Raley, Mooneyhan all made life so much easier.

The person that I owe a special debt of gratitude to is Lou Rudinski, who I worked for at Bonnieview CC and Baltimore CC starting in 1969. He is the reason that I started in this business, so without him I may have never known these wonderful people or derived such enjoyment.

Words just aren't adequate to describe how thankful I am to him.

I'm really only closing a chapter in an ongoing book. My two sons are in the business and my daughter married a superintendent. So I can live vicariously through my kids, at least in a golf course sense. How many professions can you bring your kids to work on a regular basis and they actually have fun? Not too many surgeons or lawyers can say that.

This is a brutally tough and fickle business. But the rewards can be immense. It never seemed like work. To me it was a great lifestyle. Like I said earlier, I'm luckier than I deserve, being associated with such an incredible group of professionals and to be able to honestly say that there was never a day that I couldn't wait to get to the golf course. So what does the future hold? How about a nice long summer vacation to start with and then...

BILL NEUS' RETIREMENT DINNER

Dear MAAGCS members,

I would like to take a moment of your time to thank all the MAAGCS members who attended the retirement party May 31st for Bill Neus, CGCS. I want to especially thank the many sponsors of the party and Randall Pinckney for doing an awesome job as our spokesman. We had approximately 40 -45 members reminiscing of the past and wishing Bill a wonderful retirement. It was truly a great time held by all.

Again, thank you all for your support!

Chappy
Ryland O. Chapman, IV

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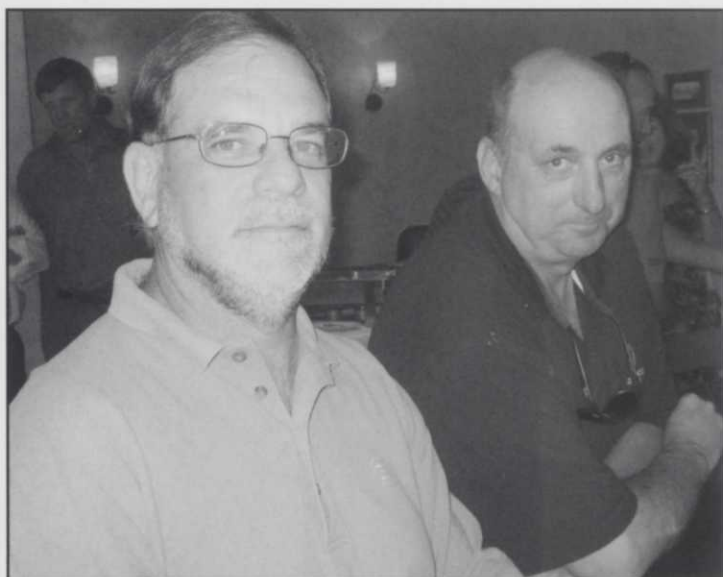
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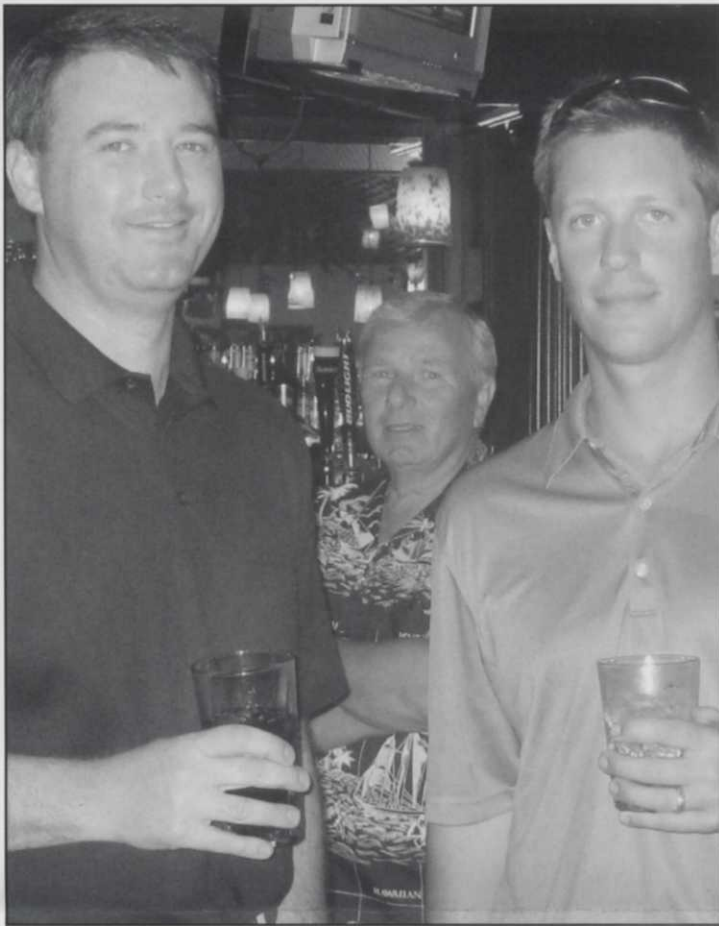
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Everyone was in a celebratory mood at Bill Neus' retirement party, including (above left) Dr. Pete Dernoden and Ray Evans, as well as (above right) Karen Hartman, Jean Scott and Theresa Baria.



Randall Pinkney and Doug Fleming share a moment in front of the camera at Bill Neus' retirement party.

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MAAGCS 2007 SCHEDULE

June 28

Skeet Shoot,

Prince Georges Trap & Skeet Center

August 6

Stewards of the Chesapeake,

Chevy Chase Club

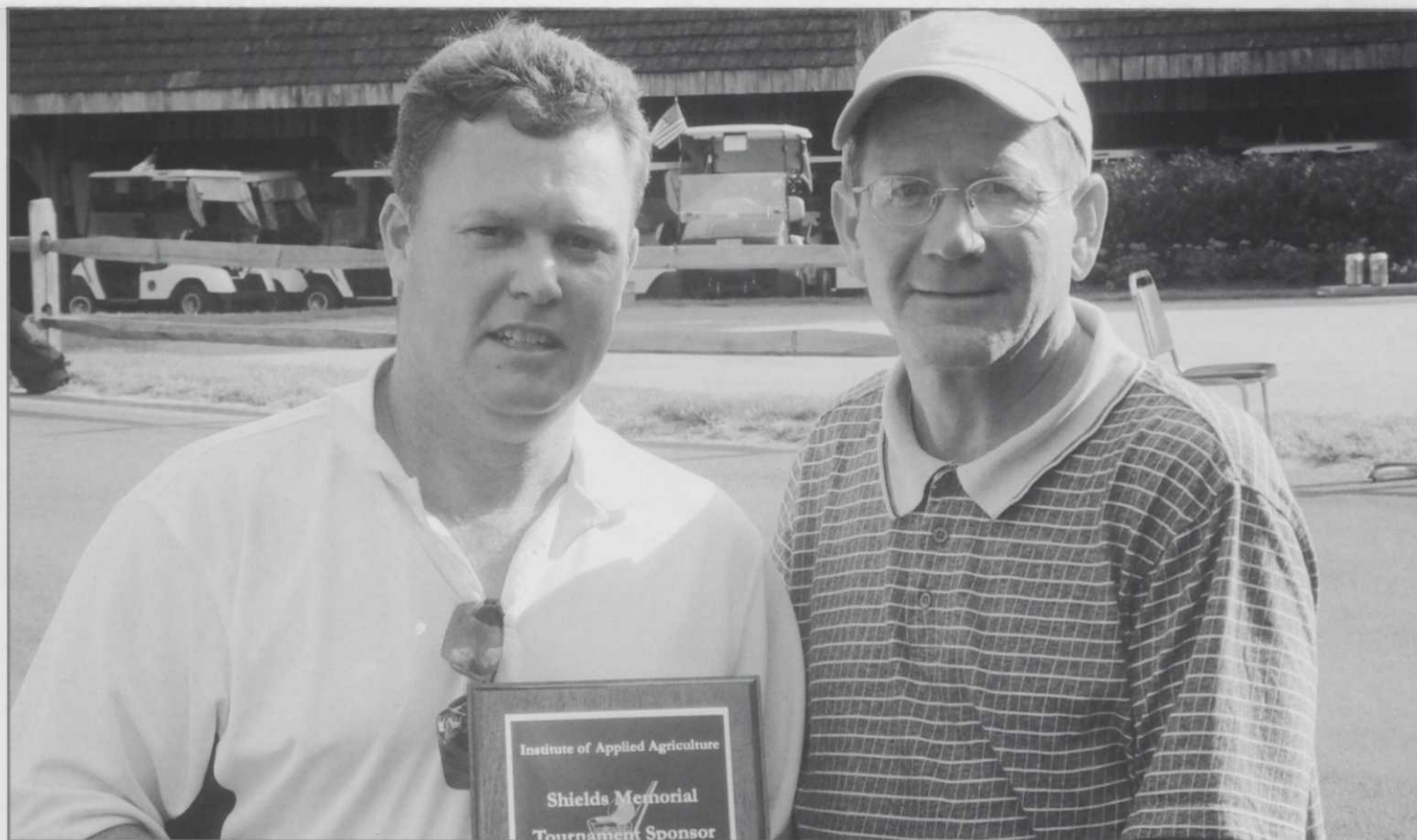
October 15

Annual Championship,

Columbia Country Club

Bullets from the Board Room

- A great amount of thanks and appreciation goes out to Mr. Steve Evans for his assistance with the organization of the March seminar.
- Membership, monthly meeting attendance and member participation continues to decline.
- Advertising and sponsorships are still available and are needed for the Directory and Newsletter.
- Thanks to Joe Herkalo for his continued help in organizing the MAAGCS golf events.
- This issue of the Newsletter is being published by a new company, Zysk Printing. Timeliness and quality will improve.



Quent Baria (right) accepts an award from Dr. Kevin Mathias at the Shields Memorial Tournament.

NEWS & NOTES

New Members

Mark Haschemeyer, Class SM, Wilmington CC
 George Long, Class A, University of MD Golf Club
 Seth Miller, Class NR
 Corey Poole, Class F, Earthtech LLC
 Corey Rill, Class C, The Elkridge Club

Congratulations

Congratulations to Marc Beaudoin (Argyle CC) and his wife Hiroko on the birth of their 1st son Collin Takeshi Beaudoin born on 4/18/07.

Get Well

Scott Wagner, Leisure World, had an emergency

appendectomy, but recovered well.

Brian Finger (Retired Summit Hall Turf) has fought and won a 5 week battle with pancreatic cancer.

Condolences

Longtime legendary golf course superintendent of Ardmore's Merion Golf Club, Rich Valentine died suddenly May 25th of a heart attack. He was 78.

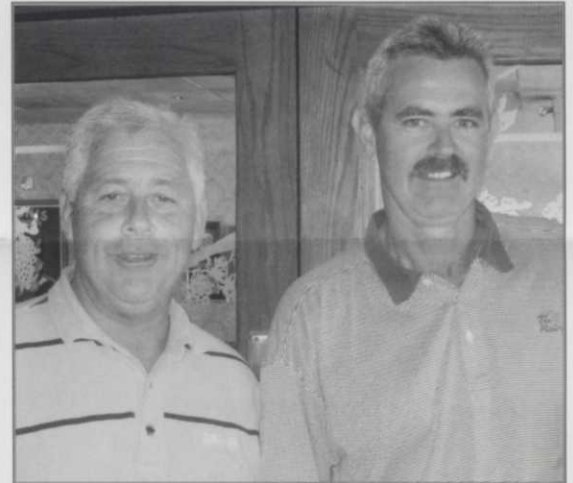
Thanks to our Contributors Towards our Environmental Research and Government Issues:

Quent Baria

Towson Golf & CC



Above, the man of the hour - Bill Neus - poses with Rhys Arthur and Nick Vance, at Neus' retirement party.



Also at the party (above right), Ken Ingram and Mike Evans, as well as (bottom right), Rick Fritz, Harry Fridley and Tim Davisson huddle for the camera.



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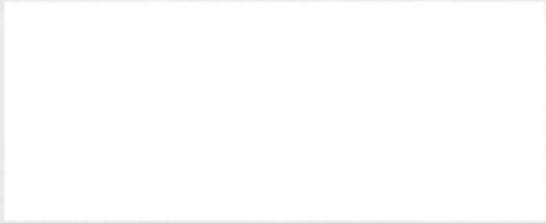
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