



TURFGRASS MATTERS

Winter 2007/08

Volume 78, Number 5

**Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents
Annual MAAGCS Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2007
Manor Country Club
Host: Randall Pinckney, President MAAGCS**



Mr. Randall Pinckney, President called the MAAGCS Board of Directors meeting to order at 11:44 am.

The "George Barger Award" was presented to Mr. Tim Davisson and the "Mark Merrick Award" was given to Mr. Jason Wirtz.

The "Tom Ritter Award" was received by Mr. David Horton and the "Rhys Arthur Award" was received by Mr. Richard Maranto.

The "Golfer of the Year Award" was won by current MAAGCS Education Chairman Mr. Scott Wunder

Mr. Mike Evans made a motion to dispose of the reading of the annual Officer's and Director's reports. This motion was seconded, and unanimously approved by MAAGCS members in attendance.

MAAGCS President Randall Pinckney presided over the elections for Officers Mr. Mark Kingora of Bethesda Country Club was nominated to be the new MAAGCS President. After offering, and not receiving any further nominations from the floor, Association members voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

Mr. Bryan McFerren of Algonkian, and Brambleton Golf Courses was nominated to be the new MAAGCS Vice President. After offering, and not receiving any further nominations from the floor, Association members voted unanimously to approve the nomination. Mr. Scott Wunder of Piney Branch Golf Club was nominated to be the new MAAGCS Secretary Treasurer. After offering, and not receiving any further nominations from the floor, Association members voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

MAAGCS President Randall Pinckney presided over the elections for Directors:

There were 5 candidates that were nominated for 5 seats. A total of 3 candidates would be elected to serve **1 year terms**, and the two candidates with the highest number of votes would be designated to serve **two year terms**.

The Nominated Candidates were as follows: Mr. Brett Post, Cross Creek Golf Club; Mr. Bryan Bupp, Bretton Woods Rec. Center; Mr. Jay Nalls, Norbeck Country Club, Mr. Jon Lobenstine, Falls Road Golf Course and Mr. Steve McCormick, Columbia Country Club.

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Jay Nalls
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Brett Post
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Cross Creek Golf Club
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hope that everyone had a great Holiday Season! I would also like to thank everyone for their support; cards, flowers, condolences and kind words which helped me and my family deal with the loss of my father.

I've been asked, on more than one occasion, what my plan is for 2008. Since becoming a MAAGCS board member the plan has been ongoing to promote membership, provide education, in the way of, seminars and scholarships and support the turf industry with university research funding, while operating a financially sound association. This along with keeping in tune with government and environmental issues that affect our industry will be our focus.

Participation has also been a major focus of the Board of Directors. The greatest factor in participation is obviously membership. Without all of you, the association would not be able to function and provide the things we do. As a reminder, Dues renewals should have been received by now, and are due shortly. Please be prompt in payment so that we all can focus on the remainder of the 2008 season. *****Also, make sure to update your contact information so that we can get all association information to you in a timely manner.**

Another major part of participation is sponsorship. To say thank you to the many companies that support our association isn't enough. Please continue to support these companies with your business, or personally thank them throughout the year as they continue to support the MAAGCS through their advertising and event sponsorship.

Committees and volunteer service is another way to give a little time to our Association. Two great examples of people who volunteer their time to the Association are Joe Herkalo who has been organizing the Golf Events for the past few years and Steve Evans who helps coordinate the MAAGCS March Education Seminar. If you are thinking about volunteering some time, contact Theresa at the MAAGCS office. Thanks also to Tom Ritter, CGCS, Mike Augustin, Bill Augustin, Quent Baria, CGCS, and Ed Walker for their years of service and welcome to our newest members of the Board of Directors, Brian Bupp, Jon Lobenstine, Steve McCormick, Brett Post and Mark Merrick, CGCS.

The 2008 monthly meeting schedule is not yet complete. Invitations to the MAAGCS reception in Orlando have been sent and it's set for Thursday, January 31, 2008. There is nothing scheduled for February, March is the MAAGCS Annual Educational Seminar and June will be the annual Skeet Shoot which has been coordinated with long time MAAGCS member, Rhys Arthur. The remaining 2008 schedule should be complete by the end of February. If anyone is interested in hosting a meeting, please contact me directly.

If there are questions or concerns that the MAAGCS can help with, please do not hesitate to contact the office @ 888-mid-turf.

Thanks and have a great 2008.

Sincerely,
Mark Kingora,
MAAGCS, President



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Theresa Baria, Executive Secretary
Brett Post, Editor

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendent's Annual Tournament was held October 29, 2007, at Columbia Country Club. After a frosty start, a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to the members of Columbia Country Club as well as Steve McCormick, his staff and the entire Club staff who aided by making our annual championship a great event.

In keeping with the fall season, an Oktoberfest lunch was served.

The results for the affair was as follows.

Superintendent's Flight

1 st gross	Dave Horton
2 nd Gross	John Anderes
3 rd Gross	Marlin Ewing
1 st Net	Richard Maranto
2 nd Net	Ryan Anderson
3 rd Net	Randall Pinckney

Affiliate Flight

1 st gross	Jason Wirtz
2 nd Gross	Andrew Harrison
3 rd Gross	Seth Greenwood
1 st Net	Tim Davisson
2 nd Net	Rob Hessler
3 rd Net	Ed Walker

Open Flight

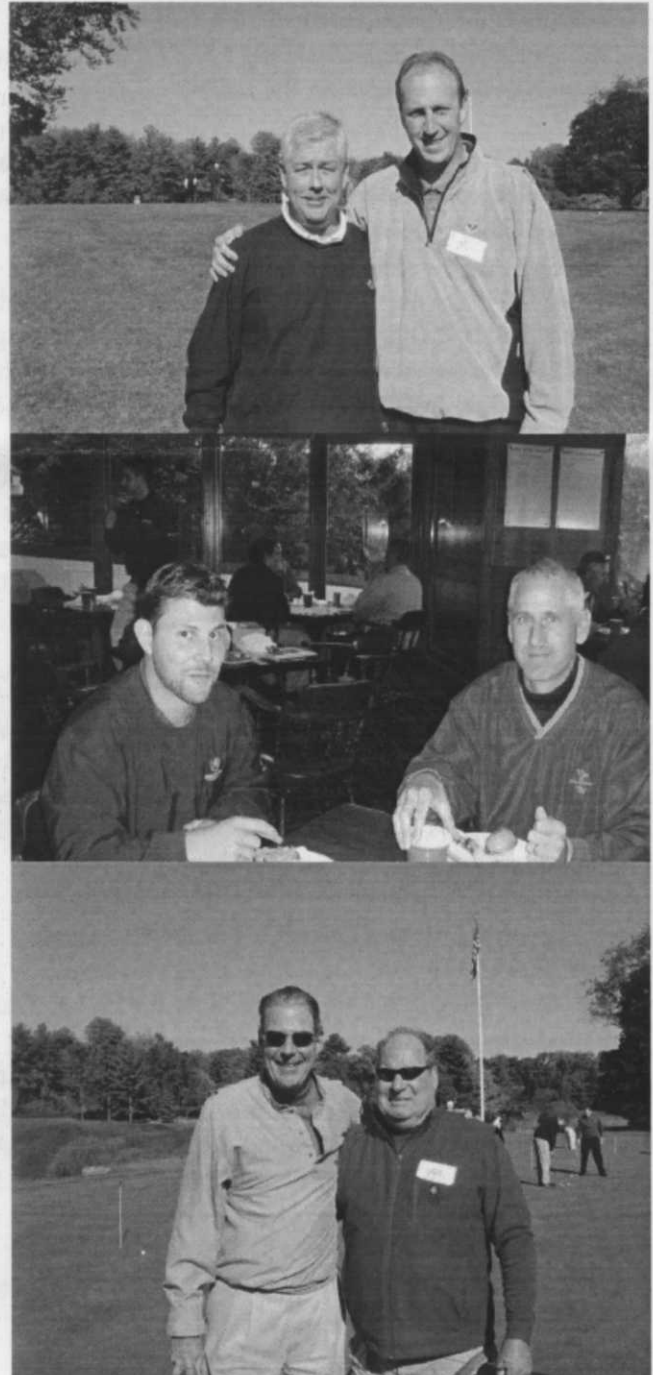
1 st gross	Dan Frost
2 nd Gross	Mike Sabol
1 st Net	Bill Stricker
2 nd Net	Reolkfd Myers

Closest to the pin winners were: Tim Downey, Seth Greenwood, Mike Sabol and Ted Nelson
Long Drive winners were: Troy Brawner and Dean Graves

Top Photo of Ken Ingram and Scott Furlong, middle photo of Nick Mooneyhan and Chappy Chapman and lower photo of Dean Graves and Steve Evans.

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(Continued from front page)

After President Pinckney offering, and not receiving any further nominations from the floor, Association members voted for the 5 candidates. The votes were counted, and Mr. Jon Lobenstein, and Mr. Steve McCormick had received the majority of the votes, and were designated two year terms. Mr. Brett Post, Mr. Bryan Bupp, and Mr. Jay Nalls were granted the one year terms.

Mr. Doug Fleming from Turf Equipment and Supply, and Mr. Ted Huhn from BASF were the nominees, After offering, and not receiving any further nominations from the floor, Association members voted for the two candidates. The votes were counted, and Mr. Doug Fleming was nominated by majority vote to serve on the Board.

Mr. Mike Barrett of Argyle Country Club made a motion to destroy all the ballots, which was second, and unanimously approved. This concluded the annual elections.

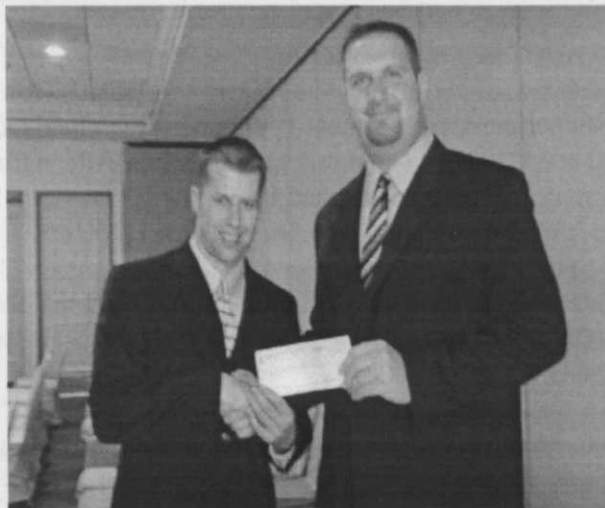
Mr. Randall Pinckney presented outgoing Board Members Mr. Tom Ritter, CGCS, (Past President), Mr. Mike Augustine (Member Services), Mr. Bill Augustine (Golf Chairman), Mr. Quent Baria, CGCS, (Media/Public Relations, Newsletter), and Mr. Ed Walker of Harrell's Turf Specialty (IAC Representative) with awards to recognize them for their hard work, and contributions to the Board over the past years. He also thanked individuals who hosted MAAGCS events in 2007, along with others who contributed in various capacities.

Outgoing President Pinckney introduced new MAAGCS President, Mr. Mark Kingora. New President Mark Kingora addresses MAAGCS members for the first time in an acceptance speech. President Kingora talks briefly about goals for the year "2008", and thanks affiliate sponsors for their continued support.

Item 7 – Education Chairman Mr. Scott Wunder declares MAAGCS Scholarship award winners

There were 3 students who were awarded Scholarships. The first place award went to Mr. Jared Milner for the amount of \$2,000. The second place award was given to Mr. John Collopy for the amount of \$1,500, and the third place winner was Mr. Zack Wignall for the amount of \$500. These deserving individuals were all congratulated by Mr. Scott Wunder, and the entire group in attendance.

Mr. Randall Pinckney then adjourns the meeting for lunch, as the new Board is sworn in.



Scott Wunder presenting John Collopy his Scholarship



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**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PROFESSOR ELECTED
FELLOW OF THE CROPSCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AND RECEIVED THE FRED V. GRAU TURFGRASS SCIENCE
AWARD**

Peter H. Dernoeden received the "Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award" and was elected "Fellow of the Crop Science Society (CSSA)" during the annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America (i.e., the tri-societies) in November 2007. The Fred V. Grau Award is given by the Turfgrass Division (C-5) of the CSSA in recognition of significant career contributions in turfgrass science. "Fellow" is the highest recognition bestowed by each of the tri-societies, and is awarded based on professional achievements and meritorious service. Only 0.3 percent of active CSSA members may be elected to Fellow annually, which was 10 members in 2007.

Peter H. Dernoeden is a Professor of Turfgrass Science in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture and joined the University of Maryland in 1980. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Colorado State University and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Dernoeden's appointment includes research and extension components and he teaches a course in pest management strategies for turfgrasses. His research and extension programs involve turfgrass pathology, weed science and the management of turfgrasses for low maintenance sites. Dr. Dernoeden discovered *Ophiosphaerella agrostis*, the incitant of dead spot disease, and documented previously unreported diseases in the mid-Atlantic region including take-all, spring dead spot, bacterial wilt and Pythium-induced root dysfunction. He studied and reported on ways to reduce fungicide usage based on soil fertility, irrigation management and soil microbial interactions with turfgrass pathogens. Dr. Dernoeden's weed science program focused on the selective control of perennial grass weeds, crabgrass and annual bluegrass. With graduate students, a degree model to predict crabgrass emergence was developed and the emergence patterns of annual bluegrass were elucidated. He published papers on managing tall fescue, fine leaf fescues and zoysiagrass for use on lawns and low maintenance sites.

As part of his extension program, Dr. Dernoeden initiated a turfgrass disease diagnostic laboratory as a service, but the lab also is an invaluable teaching tool since he and his graduate students conduct all of the diagnoses. He coordinated every UM turfgrass field day since 1982 and organized numerous symposia, conferences, and workshops. He authored over 250 extension fact sheets and non-technical articles and has been an invited speaker at numerous state, regional and national turfgrass conferences. He is internationally recognized and has been invited to speak at seminars and conferences in Austria, Canada, England, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Slovenia and Spain.

Dr. Dernoeden is the author or coauthor of 92 refereed scientific journal articles. He is author of "Creeping Bentgrass Management: Summer Stresses, Weeds and Selected Maladies", and is co-author of "Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases" and

"Managing Turfgrass Pests." He is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and is a recipient of the Northeastern Weed Science Society Outstanding Researcher Award. He served in the U.S. Army between 1970 and 1973.

The "Turfgrass Science Award" was created in 1987 by the CSSA in honor of Dr. Fred V. Grau. Dr. Donald V. Waddington from Penn State University was Chair of C-5 at the time the award was proposed, developed, presented and eventually accepted by CSSA. A major criterion for the award stipulated that candidates be evaluated on their most recent 15 years of activity to ensure a person with a sustained record of achievement would be awarded. An honorarium is given and funds for the award were donated by state turfgrass councils, associations and similar organizations. The "Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award" has special significance to Maryland. During the early 1980's, Dr. Grau attended meetings of the Maryland Turfgrass Council and one day invited Dr's Dernoeden and Turner to his home in College Park for lunch. It was during this and a few other visits that the two Maryland professors got to know a pioneer in turfgrass science and the turfgrass industry.

Dr. Grau was born and raised on a farm in Nebraska and graduated from the Nebraska State College (now the University of Nebraska) in 1931. Dr. Keim, a professor at UN who taught turfgrass culture and inspired a number of students to enter the field, received a \$300.00 grant from the USGA to evaluate the effects of various fertilizers on turf. Fred Grau was hired to care for the plots and maintain the records. This experience, as well as a greenkeeping job he had to earn money to pay for college, were the stepping stones to his turfgrass career. After graduation from UN, he was hired by Dr. John Monteith Jr., Director of the USGA Green Section, to care of the turf research plots at the Arlington Turf Gardens, now the site of the Pentagon. During that time the USGA Green Section had a research relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USGA and USDA agreed to formally collaborate in 1920. The purpose was to conduct scientific research to improve turf for golf courses. The relationship ended around 1956.

For reasons that are not recorded, but obviously related to a desire to further his career, Grau enrolled at the University of Maryland to pursue an advanced degree. His M.S. (1933) research was on the subject of "Weed Control In Turf." He laid out his research plots in Kentucky bluegrass at the Arlington Turf Garden, where he remained an employee of the Green Section. He found that lead arsenate was effective in controlling crabgrass and grubs and later noted that the plots were still crabgrass and grub-free when the bulldozers arrived to build the Pentagon in 1942 (GCM, January 1985). Due to the immense financial hardship of the depression, the Green Section eliminated many jobs including his. The Agronomy Department Head and a soil scientist at UM "rescued him" by finding funds for him to conduct a survey of Maryland pastures. He received his Ph.D. in 1935 and was hired in the same year to be the first Extension Turfgrass Specialist at the Pennsylvania State College (now Penn State University). The position was evenly split between turf and forages. As an Extension Agronomist, he traveled throughout Pennsylvania. It was on one of these Extension trips in Berks County in 1935 that he discovered what was to become known as 'Penngift'

News & Notes

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Condolences

To Mark Kingora (Bethesda Country Club) and his family on the death of his father John Kingora who passed away in November after a short illness.

To the family of retired MAAGCS member, Barclay (Buck) Whetsell, who passed away in December. His wife Shirley said his heart could not keep up with the progression of the Parkinsons and Lewy Body and just gave up. He is at peace now and with their two sons.

To the family of Chris Pence. His mother passed away in January.

To the family of Lentz Wheeler on the death of his mother.

Congratulations

Jeff Ashley (Westwood Country Club) and his wife Christine on the birth of their son, Joshua Robert Ashley on November 10, 2007.



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(Continued from previous page) crownvetch. In 1953, Penngift was formally released by Dr. Grau and Professor Musser at Penn State and in 1987 it was named the "Beautification and Conservation Plant" by the State of Pennsylvania. Today, Penngift can be found growing along thousands of miles of Pennsylvania and Maryland highways stabilizing soil, while providing the beauty of its purple summer flowers. During World War II, Dr. Grau entered the Air Force, where he helped establish grass airfields under the guidance of Professor Musser, who also was working with the Air Force at this time. In 1945, he was hired to be Director of the USGA Green Section in Beltsville MD and moved to College Park.

During Dr. Grau's tenure as Director of the Green Section (1945 to 1951), the American Society of Agronomy recognized turf as a legitimate agricultural entity and established the C-5 Division after an aggressive letter writing campaign that he initiated (ASA's Crop Section became CSSA in 1955). Dr. Grau served as the first C-5 Chair and chaired a separate ASA Turfgrass Committee from 1946 to 1955, which served as a clearinghouse for turfgrass research information. The recognition provided by a Turfgrass Division in ASA gave agricultural experiment stations (state and federally funded research units at land grant institutions) the impetus to establish turfgrass-oriented research and educational programs within agricultural universities. This led to a rapid increase in the number of turfgrass science programs at American Universities. It also was during this period when he played an important role in the release of 'Merion' Kentucky bluegrass, 'Meyer' zoysiagrass, and U-3 bermudagrass. He left the USGA in 1953 and became a consultant to golf courses and several businesses including West Point Products (producers of aerifiers and other turf machinery) and Hercules Powder Company (Nitroform fertilizer, including Power Blue and Blue Chip). He also operated Grasslyn, the family business for growing Penngift crownvetch. Dr. Grau was a founding member of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council in 1955 and served as Executive Director from 1968 to 1975 and Executive Secretary from 1976 to 1981. Dr. Grau also was a founding member of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation in 1969, where he served as President for 20 years. Among his many awards were the USGA Green Section Award (1969) and the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award (1954 and 1975). He died in 1990 at the age of 88 in Maryland. His legacy was summarized by Mr. Tom Mascaro (GCM, January 1991), who stated "He has left us in body but not spirit. He will continue to be with us in our lives, and in the lives of future generations. He was a man of vision – and a man of our future."

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Prepared by Peter Dernoeden with assistance from Mr. Jim Snow, Director of the USGA Green Section and Dr. Don Waddington, Professor Emeritus, Penn State University. Most of the information in this story was obtained from articles and letters written by Dr. Grau and published in *Golf Course Superintendent* (September/October 1976); *Golf Course Management* (January 1985); and from "...And A Remembrance" written by Mr. Tom Mascaro (*Golf Course Management*, January 1991).



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**The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf
Course Superintendent's annual
education seminar will be held March
20, 2008, at the University of
Maryland. Details will be mailed out
in
February.**

Government Relations Report

Jay Nalls, Golf Course Superintendent, Norbeck Country Club

MAAGCS Government Relations Director

This has been a very exciting year in government relations! Increased interest in pesticide usage, taxes for landscaping, and the controversy over immigrant workers have kept the Mid Atlantic BOD very busy this year.

We had the honor to address a delegation from the Maryland State Senate about pesticide usage earlier this year. There was a bill proposed (SB 499) in the Maryland Senate aimed at construction on property currently used or previously used as golf courses. This bill would have entailed property owners to incur extremely expensive soil testing, with the results being reviewed by an appointed board whose membership may not be favorable to any development. The delegation asked about current pest control programs, and how golf courses can affect the environment with our chemical applications. We were able to answer very positively, and the bill still hasn't been passed in the State Senate.

There was a small push by the Maryland State Senate to apply a "pesticide tax" on landscaping companies. This tax would force landscaping companies to charge additional monies for each pesticide application. The taxes collected would then be used for environmental programs. Though there is definitely a need for a funding increase for our state environmental programs, the landscaping industry is extremely competitive, and a tax on their services would hurt the small business owner. This tax was overturned, with special effort by Mark Schlossberg and his constituents.

The largest challenge to hit our industry has been the H-2B worker controversy. H-2B workers are used in the golf, hospitality, seafood and agriculture industries across the nation. These workers have been unfairly lumped into the "immigration" issue. The H-2B worker is NOT an immigrant! These are people with work visas, who are allowed to come into the country to work seasonal jobs, and then MUST return to their home country. They are not allowed to stay, and cannot bring any family with them. Because they go through the federal government, they pay taxes accurately, without claiming unreasonable numbers of questionable dependents. They leave behind Social Security, which benefits the American worker as our Social Security shrinks.

They are vital for our industry, allowing us to keep full-time workers on staff, and filling the voids when it is hard to find temporary or seasonal employees. Let's face it, most Americans want a year round job, and they can get it. Americans are not willing to work only 7 or 8 months each year. The H-2B workers are paid a fair labor wage, and are allowed to return the following year, if they follow the rules for coming and going set out by the government.

The H-2B program allows 66,000 new visas each year. This is a perfect way for the federal government to send illegal immigrants home, without hurting the small business owners who depend on unskilled labor to meet production. Unfortunately, the senators and representatives of congress do not want to touch any issue dealing with "immigration" with a 10 foot pole. Save Small Business (savesmallbusiness.org) brought over 700 small business owners and spokespeople to congress in December to push Congress into voting for the bills to support the H-2B program (Senate bill 988 and House of Representatives bill 1843). Our group from Maryland (about 15 people) visited various senate and house offices to push our members to support these bills. Rep. Ruppberger (Maryland District 2) was extremely supportive of our issue, and agreed to help move it forward as best he could by talking to the unsupportive members of the House. Rep. Hoyer's staff (Maryland District 5) stressed how they could not help with this issue, because of the number of their constituents who had misconceptions about the program, and that any stance on what could be seen as an "immigration issue" could cost them re-election in the future. Several senators such as Sen. Webb from Virginia and Sen. Burr from North Carolina also agreed to support the H-2B program.

In the end, due to the misconception that the H-2B program is an immigration issue instead of a small business issue, the bill failed to pass in December. We will continue to support the H-2B program which provides new visas for legal workers to come temporarily into the US and fill seasonal positions. Please contact your Senators and Representatives, and let them know how important an issue it is for our industry to have legal, authorized workers here to keep our full time workers employed.

It's A Shore Thing

By Dave Cammarota

Though we may seldom recognize it, history is made somewhere everyday, and November 5-7th was no exception. They came from the North, they came from the South, and they came from the West; Educators, Golf Course Superintendents, and other turf professionals & associates, some 100 individuals, attended the Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents' first, non-commercialized, high quality educational seminar, named the "Eastern Shore Golf Turf Conference," which was held at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in North Ocean City, Maryland.

This event was a long time coming from its early planning stages some years ago, when the leadership began inquiries about the possibility of holding a professional sized, non-commercial event on the eastern shore. And kudos belong to the leadership and planners, who spearheaded this initiative, from the then President John Kotoski, VP Eric Snelsire, Joe Perry, Eric Linde, Tom Cassat, & Harlyn Goldman, to the administrative talents of Jody Farley, and Jill Barbon. Many others, whose names are a list too long to mention, were participants, and moderators in the Round Table Discussions, and other facets in the planning of an event this size.

Academic presenters included Dr. Jack Fry, who conducted an interesting format, breaking the room of approximately 80 attendees into small groups, who were challenged, in a limited amount of time, to work with fictitious limited financial resources, on the management of a fictitious golf hole. It was an exercise, and revelation, to see how the many diverse groups came up with their own unique methods for the care and maintenance of this sample golf hole. Other presenters following were Penn State's Dr Tom Watschke, and Matt Shaffer from Merion Golf Club.

On Tuesday evening, a cocktail social hour was presented in honor of J. Ben Stagg, the eastern shore's retired superintendent from Hog Neck Golf Club, in Easton, Maryland. Ben & Hilda, along with several family members, listened as Eric Linde presented Ben with a Lifetime Achievement Award, highlighting the many accomplishments and contributions Ben has made over the last 35 years of his participation in our profession. Congratulations go out to Ben from all of us for his dedication and selfless contributions for the

benevolence of all in his profession.

The final session on Wednesday was a Round Table Discussion where coordinators and recorders, for a limited period of time, moved from table to table with a set of challenging questions for table partners to discuss. For this writer, the exercise was a rewarding one, in that at my table, sat superintendents from very different employment situations, from private exclusive to semi-private, and public golf venues. Their views presented reflected each of their own experiences in dealing with their own set of challenges in golf turf maintenance.

This premier event was counted as a huge success, and has proven itself to be a worthwhile conference to be considered for future seminars on the shore.



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