

TURFGRASS MATTERS

March/April 2008

Volume 79, Number 1

Education Update

8th Annual Spring Education Seminar

A success! The 8th Annual Education Seminar was a wonderful success, and there are a lot of people responsible for putting it all together. First and foremost, I would like to recognize our sponsors, who provide the Association with the opportunity to have events like this that fit within our increasingly tight budgets.

Our sponsors for this event were Turf Equipment and Supply Co., Inc., Fisher & Sons, Finch Services, Davisson Golf, Egypt Arms, Genesis Turfgrass, and Helena Chemical Company. Thank you very much and hats off to your continued support!

I also want to take a moment to recognize once again the efforts of Scott Wunder in putting together such an excellent group of presenters, Steve Evans for his dedication to getting so many of the behind the scenes details worked out at the Student Union, and Theresa Baria for her fantastic support to the Board of Directors and to the Mid-Atlantic Association in all that we do. We all appreciate their efforts!

Those of you fortunate enough to be in attendance on March 20th, saw an "All-Star" lineup of speakers present new information on a variety of topics. Steve McDonald and Dr. Dernoeden highlighted some of their latest research and stirred up interest with a number of questions from the attendees; Herb Stevens enlightened the crowd with some very interesting information about the global warming "hoax;" Dr. Roch Gaussion is in the middle of some exciting research on organic matter dilution in sand-based greens; Dr. Karl Danneberger brought to "light" some of his newest shade research; Keith Happ's photos and stories are helping us answer tough

questions that are posed to us on the golf course; Dr. Kevin Mathias is introducing some useful training modules to educate your staff; and Peter Maybach and Jeff Michel presented fascinating data regarding water quality, soil nutrition availability, and sand selection.

What a wealth of information! If you were unable to attend this year, call your neighbor and get a copy of their notes! I will be looking into new ways that we can make the event even more affordable and hopefully allow even more turf professionals to attend next year. Please don't forget to sign up early, as it is likely to be a high-demand opportunity.

It's going to be a great year! Hope to see you all at the next monthly meeting.

Jon Lobenstine

Education Chair



Learn it. Do it. Share it.



Education Chairman Jon Lobenstine and Golf Chairman Bryan Bupp

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The 2008 season is in full swing and the spring weather has arrived; sunny days with cool breezes and frosty mornings that delay the start of the day, remind us that winter is not quite past and gives everyone the opportunity to squeeze in some additional education prior to Spring aerification.

The 8th Annual MAAGCS Education Seminar was very well attended. Mr. Scott Wunder, assisted by Mr. Steve Evans, organized another successful educational event, which included local speakers from the University of Maryland as well as speakers from across the country. Thanks to Mr. Steve McDonald, "Turfgrass Disease Solutions", Mr. Keith Happ, "USGA Agronomist", Mid-Atlantic Region, Mr. Herb Stevens, Meteorologist, "Grass Roots Weather", Dr. Peter Dernoeden, "Department of Agronomy", University of Maryland, Dr. Roch Gaussoin, "Professor and Turfgrass Specialist", University of Nebraska, Dr. Kevin Mathias, "Lecturer and Advisor" for the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture, Dr. Karl Danneberger, "Professor", Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University and Mr. Jeff Michel and Mr. Peter Maybach, "Consultants", M & M Consulting, for participating and making this event a success.

I would like to thank Turf Equipment and Supply Company for eight years of partnership in sponsoring this event. Thanks also to Fisher & Son Co., Inc., Finch Services Inc., Genesis Turfgrass Inc., Davisson Golf, Egypt Farms and Helena Chemical Company for sponsoring this event. Your sponsorship makes this event possible and more affordable to our members.

As a reminder, our first golf meeting of the year will be the Superintendent/Pro at Bethesda Country Club on Monday, April 28th.

There will be superintendent/pro net and gross divisions, as well as, an Open flight. The defending champions are from Westwood Country Club, Walter Montross, CGCS, MG and his pro. In conjunction with several of our monthly meetings, Jon Lobenstine, Education Chairman, with the help of Steve Evans, will be organizing some educational speakers and/or round table discussions. If anyone has discussion or educational topics of interest, please call the MAAGCS office with that information.

Thank you and hope to see you at the Superintendent /Pro.

Sincerely,

Mark Kingora
MAAGCS President



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Theresa Baria, Executive Secretary

Brett Post, Editor

Published five times annually by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

MAAGCS

2nd Annual MAAGCS Ski Trip

Breaking News! An avalanche occurs after man falls while skiing. Scott Wunder a Golf Course Superintendent from Piney Branch Golf Club fell while skiing at the top of a ski-run called the "Dipsey - Doodle" a challenging (green circle) slope @ Liberty Mountain Ski Resort. Search and rescue teams looked for 5 minutes searching for Scott's friend Brian Pardoe who was swallowed by the tumbling fury of man made snow. At the same time the avalanche occurred camera crews were filming the sequel to the movie "Hot Dog" starring professional skiers Steve McCormick, Mike Hutchison, Scott Furlong and Dann Finch. It was almost as if they were skiing the Palisades of Squaw Valley with the exception of 4,500 feet of elevation.

On February 19, 2008 the MAAGCS held its 2nd Annual Ski Trip @ Ski Liberty Mountain Resort in Pennsylvania. The event was well attended and we all enjoyed a full day of skiing. I would like to thank Sports Aggregates (Mike Hutchison) and Finch Services (Dann Finch) for providing the lunches and drinks as our sponsors for the day. It's a great event to bring family members and friends, so please sign up for next year. If enough people are interested next year, we may try an overnight trip to another resort (Seven Springs, Wisp, or Snowshoe). Please email the MAAGCS @ maagcs@earthlink.net with your thoughts and if you will be interested for next year so that we can work on the details the 2009 ski trip.

Wishing all of you a great 2008 golf season!

Randall S. Pinckney
MAAGCS Past President



Show your true colors.

Get paint for your upcoming tournaments.
Or for whatever else you have in mind.

No matter how you plan to use it, there is no better time than now to stock up on Tournament Turf Marking Paint. Buy five cases before April 30, 2008 and receive a sixth case free. Ask your agronomic sales representative for details.

Purchase can be of multiple paint colors. Offer valid March 1st, 2008 - April 30, 2008. Some restrictions apply.

News & Notes

Condolences

To Kyle Adamson, Custom Touch Tree Service on the death of his mother.

To Pete Maybach, M & M Consulting on the death of his father, Dr. Eric Maybach.

To Bruce Williams, LA Country Club on the death of his father, Robert Williams.

To the family and friends of Brian Finger, who was a longtime MAAGCS Member.

To Mark Kingora, MAAGCS President on the death of his grandfather, Thomas Summa.

Congratulations

Mike (Argyle CC) and his wife Amy on the birth of their daughter, Katie.

John II McDonald (McDonald and Son) and his wife Mary on the birth of their son Dominic.

New Members

Theodore Blouvelt, Jr., Hampshire Greens GC, Class SM
David Scott Clark, Class C, Red Gate GC
Phil Desbrow, Class A, Lakewood GC
Jack Findling, Windfield Solutions, Class F
Brian Hogan, Class SM, Lake Arbor GC
Patrick Kamick, Wadsworth Golf Construction, Class F
David McGregor, Robert Trent Jones GC, Class C
Craig W. McKimmy, Hampshire Green
Kyle Sherwood, Class C, Columbia CC s GC, Class C
Jacob Smith, Argyle Country Club, Class C
Craig Swiney, Musket Ridge Golf Club, Class A
Scott Thomas, Class C, Robert Trent Jones GC
Brett Walters, Class C, Columbia CC

Bullets From the Boardroom

- 2008 Schedule of events are completed and venues have been selected.
- MAAGCS will try to incorporate a fundraiser into one of the events of the year.
- MAAGCS would like to work on improving our relationships with our neighboring associations.
- Randall Pinckney reports 2008 ski trip at Liberty Mountain was a huge success.
- Mark Merrick submits Findings from IAC Survey to be reviewed by the board.
- MAAGCS membership application will be reviewed and given a new design.
- Theresa Baria reports that the GCSAA Reception in Orlando was a huge success in conjunction with VGCSA.
- Theresa Baria reports that advertising is down and could be improved upon.
- 2007 year-end-budget was approved.
- 2008 budget proposal was approved with changes pending.
- Steve McCormick would like to start a MAAGCS survey for our members.

MAAGCS SCHEDULE

- April 28th** - Superintendent/Pro
Bethesda CC
- May 22nd** - Superintendent Assistant,
Little Bennett GC
- June 26th** - Skeet Shoot,
Prince George County Skeet Shoot
- July 31st** - U of MD Turf Field Day
MAAGCS Picnic, U of MD
- September 2nd**- Stewards of the Chesapeake
Bretton Woods Recreation Center
- October (tba)**- Annual Championship
CC of Maryland (80th Anniversary)
- November 3rd**- Joint Meeting w/ GWGCSA
at RTJGC
- December (tba)** - Annual Meeting/Elections

SPORTSAGGREGATES

I-MOL

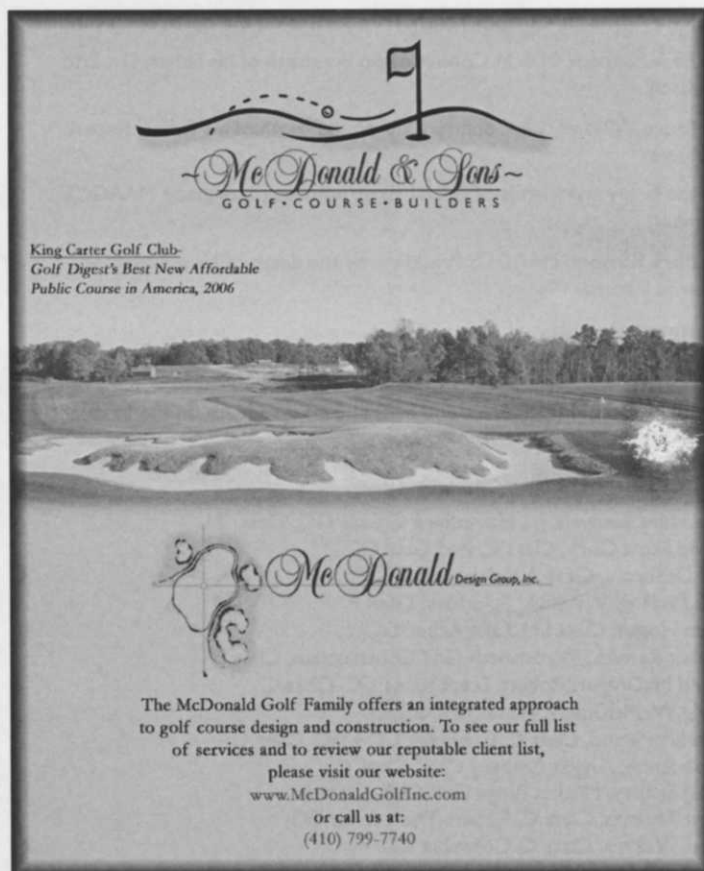
2008 HOLE-IN-ONE CHALLENGE

Any hole-in-one at an MAAGCS sponsored event:

\$250.00 paid to the player

\$250.00 donated to the MAAGCS

Player must submit attested score card



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How To Send A Turfgrass Sample To The University Of Maryland Plant Diagnostic Lab

The procedures outlined below are for submission of turfgrass disease samples from golf courses, athletic fields or other commercial turfgrass sites. All samples are to be submitted to Dr. Karen Rane in the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory. Dr. Rane (rane@umd.edu) will coordinate diagnostics and recommendations with Dr. Peter Dernoeden (pd@umd.edu).

1. Always call (301-405-1611) PRIOR TO SENDING samples. The diagnostic lab relies on the expertise of a limited number of trained individuals. In the event that these individuals will be out of the office for an extended period of time, samples will not be processed. A phone message will be regularly updated indicating when the diagnostician will be available to receive samples.
2. Samples should be collected using a cup cutter (4" diameter). Plugs should be taken from the active edge of a diseased area and should contain approximately 40% healthy and 60% symptomatic turf. The sample should contain **no more than a 2" depth of soil**.
3. The diagnostic form should be completed in full to ensure that we have all of the available information necessary to make an accurate and rapid diagnosis. The specimen submission form can be obtained from plantclinic.umd.edu.
4. Cup cutter plugs should be WRAPPED in a moist paper towel and then in aluminum foil to ensure that the soil does not mix with the foliage. Properly wrapped samples should be packed tightly in a sturdy box and sealed tight to prevent tumbling of the sample and the mixing of soil with foliage.
5. Send by NEXT DAY DELIVERY or HAND DELIVER for arrival MONDAY through THURSDAY. Samples taking more than one day to arrive will likely be beyond the point of an accurate diagnosis. Arrival by Thursday allows needed time for sample incubation in the lab. Samples arriving in poor condition will not be processed and the submitter will be asked to send a fresh sample. Walk-ins are welcome, but always call first.
6. **Additional information** on how to properly collect turfgrass samples for disease diagnosis and parasitic nematode assay can be found at mdturfCouncil.org. After you logged on, click on "Maryland Extension Publications" and then click on TT-3 "Collecting and Shipping Turfgrass Samples for Disease Diagnosis."

Address for Mailing Samples: Plant Diagnostic Lab,
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3171 Plant Science Building
University of MD
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Know Your Place and Stay There!

It has been a while since I updated you on my experiences with golf in Korea. Some of you may get a kick out of this, while a few others, well — I don't really care what the others think.

Upper management appears to be the same, regardless of what country the game of golf is played. To prove it, just read on, unless you are a sensitive upper-level management type.

To set the scene, I was visiting one of our managed courses, a 36-hole resort, during the last week of February. The course features bentgrass fairways and bluegrass roughs. Daytime temperatures were occasionally reaching into the 40's, while soil temperatures were close to 40 degrees, if the sun was shining. The bentgrass turf had yet to awaken, although you could see a little bit of green under the older dead and dormant leaf blades. In short, to the eyes of this knowledgeable agronomist, the turf looked exactly as it should during the final stages of a cold Korean winter.

But to the eyes of upper management, all was not well at this beautiful resort course. From a posh office room inside the palatial clubhouse, where optimal temperatures are regulated by thermostats, came a request to apply fertilizer to make the golf course green. Of course I cannot print my response to my boss when informed of this request, but I think you have an idea what it might have been. Most clubs here employ a director of maintenance as a go-between, so we had to give our response to him. After explaining why a fertilizer application would not help at this time, he relayed this information to upper management. Of course, this was still not good enough. Management continued to insist that we fertilize the golf course so it would be green right away, despite the long-range forecast for several days of snow and ice, and temperatures in the 30's and 40's over the next two weeks.

We continued to lobby our case that fertilizing in these cold conditions would be futile, and believed that the issue had finally been resolved. Four days later, we received a fax at our office from the club's management. By some strange coincidence, a professor teaching classes in soil science and fertilization at a local university, was playing the course and sent a letter to club management with his assessment of course conditions. In his expert opinion, the professor found the golf course to be in serious jeopardy of losing all of its turfgrass. The golf course was extremely dry and needed to be watered immediately, or risk losing all of its turf. Root systems, which should be over three inches at this time of year, were barely two inches in length. The fairways and greens were in dire need of daily irrigation! To illustrate the point, the professor pointed to a lack of ball marks on the greens as proof that they were excessively dry. He also, detailed why we should be fertilizing to promote an early green-up, along with a few other unwarranted comments.

After being informed of the contents of this letter, I was asked by my employer to write a letter of response, explaining why we did not agree with this professor's evaluation of the golf course. Can you imagine how long it took me to calm down enough so that I could write a response? After a little deep breathing, and a walk outside so I could vent, I wrote as civil a letter as possible. For some reason, the Korean people do not like to hear American curse words. I warned my employer that he may have to edit some of the report, as I knew a couple of paragraphs would need to be removed. The paragraphs in question were an honest, accurate expression of my feelings at the time. As you might imagine, my boss removed the offending passages. The report was translated, and sent to club management.

One would have hoped that my report put the issue to rest ... **WRONG!**

A week and a half after the initial request, the other owner of our company was asked to visit the course. This is not just a short drive; it is a one-hour plane flight from Seoul to the facility. With all that had transpired, the owner decided to have a couple Ph.D.'s from the local research facility accompany him so that they could provide an independent evaluation.

After arriving at the facility, everyone toured the course for the evaluation. After the tour, the 50-degree temperature proved too balmy for the group to resist a round of golf. After all, this is Korea, and this golf-crazed culture will play in any conditions, as many of you can attest.

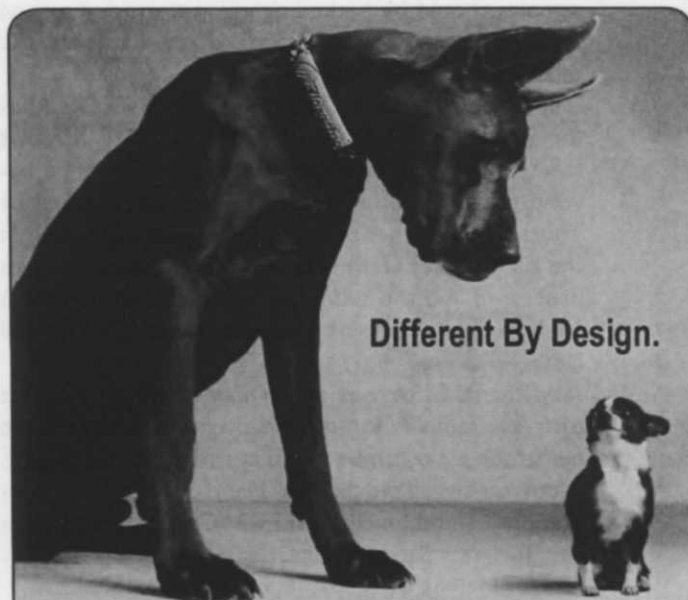
After their visit, the researchers reached the same conclusions I had expressed in my report. Basically, the university professor should be rethinking his career choice, although they voiced their views in a more professional manner.

In summary, air and soil temperatures were too cold to help with early green-up. Fertilization would have been futile under these parameters. The researchers found soil moisture to be more than adequate to support healthy turfgrass, and they were seeing two inches of healthy, white roots. They did not even bother to address the "too dry for ball marks" charge.

The moral of this story is: know your place, stay there, and leave the turfgrass management to the experts you have hired to manage your turf. Even halfway around the world — the basics remain the same.

Written by: Paul E. Masimore, CGCS

PS: If I have offended anyone with this article, I'll tell you what I tell my wife in a loving manner: "you'll get over it". I hope someday to meet this professor. I would love to give him some unsolicited advice. Who would hire this guy? We have a theory or two, but we may never really know. You've got to love it to be in it.



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::SUPERINTENDENTS TO BENEFIT *from* DEBUT OF TWO NEW FUNGICIDES IN 2008::

Broad spectrum control, novel chemistries, improved turf quality on the horizon

by Lauren Carr

"They say golf is like life, but don't believe them. Golf is more complicated than that."

—Golfer Gardner Dickenson

Dickenson could have easily been speaking for golf course superintendents and disease management strategies when he uttered these oft-quoted words.

Managing tough turf diseases such as brown patch, anthracnose, dollar spot and pythium blight can be a complicated part of superintendents' overall turf management programs. They require multiple applications of multiple products, plus there is the threat of fungicide resistance and turf growth regulation. While winter means downtime for some golfers, there is no rest for the weary superintendent who is already mapping out his disease management program for the coming year.

Turf management will be a little less complicated in 2008 with the introduction of Valent Professional Products' two new turf fungicides, *Tourney™* and *Stellar™*.

Tourney Fungicide

Tourney will provide superintendents with broad spectrum control of the Big Three turf diseases—brown patch, anthracnose and dollar spot. Moreover, it features a low use rate compared to other demethylation inhibitors (DMIs).

Tourney demonstrated comprehensive control in several demo trials Valent conducted during the summer of 2007, including a trial with Quent Baria, certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) for Towson Golf Country Club in Phoenix, Maryland.

Towson's close proximity to the Chesapeake Bay makes it an ideal breeding ground for brown patch.

Baria trialed *Tourney* for brown patch control on his turf nursery.

"I worked with Valent to apply four *Tourney* applications during July and August at two-week intervals. We treated bentgrass fairways and bentgrass that was mowed to putting-green height," Baria said. "I set the trial up so there were untreated check plots for both the fairway and putting-green portions of the turf nursery."

Throughout the trial, the *Tourney*-treated areas remained free of not only brown patch, for which Baria was treating, but dollar spot as well. Baria also saw excellent control of black algae on the greens portion of the trial.

"When you go out mid-season to make an application with a DMI fungicide, you would like to think that you are getting broad spectrum control," Baria said. "But, all of the DMI fungicides available at this time control some diseases but are really weak on brown patch. *Tourney* held up on dollar spot and brown patch really well."



Image from *Tourney* demo plot at Towson Golf Country Club. Left side shows untreated brown patch and right side shows *Tourney* control of brown patch.

As a superintendent, Baria sees real value in a broad spectrum fungicide such as *Tourney*.

"Being able to control several turf diseases with one application means not only dollar savings, but you also simplify your program so you don't have compatibility issues among chemistries," Baria said.

Baria plans to include *Tourney* in his 2008 disease management program by making back-to-back *Tourney* applications in July. He intends to follow that with a contact fungicide application and then two more back-to-back *Tourney* applications in August to take full advantage of the black algae activity.

Jill Calabro, the Valent turf pathologist who worked with Baria on the *Tourney* trial, notes that *Tourney* also shows promising performance on anthracnose as well as other turf diseases, including red thread, rust, gray leaf spot, large patch, Zoysia patch, fairy ring and snow mold.

"Though anthracnose pressure was light this past summer, in previous trials we have seen great control from *Tourney* on this turf disease," Calabro said. "Upon registration in 2008 superintendents who use *Tourney* can rest assured it is working on their top turf diseases."

Stellar Fungicide

Pending EPA registration, Valent also plans to launch *Stellar* in 2008. *Stellar* trials were conducted in 2007 with several still currently underway. Initial results show excellent control of pythium disease, which can be challenging to control and destructive to turfgrass if unchecked.

Stellar Fungicide		
Stellar Recommended Rates		
Diseases	Application Rate	
	oz/1,000 sq ft	oz/A
Pythium Blight, Pythium Damping Off	1.2	52

"*Stellar* is a unique fungicide premix that combines fluopicolide—a new active ingredient—with the proven pythium chemistry, propamocarb," Jason Fausey, Valent field market development specialist said. "In early trials, superintendents have commented on how user-friendly *Stellar* is compared to other pythium fungicides. *Stellar's* synergistic premix means enhanced control from a single product and a simplified approach to pythium management for the superintendent."

The introduction of *Stellar* offers superintendents another tool for managing resistance in their fungicide rotation program.

"Because pythium is such a prevalent turf disease and is present in all cool-season turfgrass, especially bentgrass, annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, there is a real threat of fungicide resistance," Fausey said. "*Stellar's* new chemical class and unique mode of action from dual active ingredients will help superintendents better manage and prevent resistant pythium."

Tourney and *Stellar* are currently under review by the EPA and registrations are anticipated in the first quarter of 2008.

For more information about Valent Professional Products, Valent U.S.A. Corporation or our full product line, call 800-89-VALENT (898-2536), or visit the Valent Professional Products Web site at www.valentpro.com/turf.

Tourney Fungicide		
Tourney Recommended Rates		
Diseases	Application Rate	
	oz/1,000 sq ft	oz/A
Brown Patch	0.28 to 0.37	12 to 16
Anthracnose	0.28 to 0.37	12 to 16
Dollar Spot	0.18 to 0.28	8 to 12
Gray Leaf Spot, Red Thread, Rhizoctonia Large Patch, Rust Diseases, Summer Patch, Zoysia Patch	0.37	16
Fairy Ring	0.37	16
Pink Snow Mold, Gray Snow Mold, Yellow Patch	0.37 to 0.45	16 to 19.5



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Read and follow the label instructions before using.

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2008 GCSAA Golf Classic

The 2008 GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic was held January 27-29, in Orlando. Five unique and challenging golf courses hosted this event. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents sponsored three teams for this event. Below are their names and final results.

Place	Team/Member Name	Hcp	Round 1	Round 2	Total
		<u>Index</u>	<u>Gross Points</u>	<u>Gross Points</u>	<u>Gross</u>
17	MAAGCS				
	Britton, Stephen	7.70	27	28	
	Guzek, Chester C.	.00	35	33	
	Wendt, Peter, CGCS	11.70	<u>25</u>	<u>11</u>	
			87	72	159
37	MAAGCS				
	Cohoon, Stephen, CGCS	12.4	21	25	
	Furlong, Scott, CGCS	13.2	>15	22	
	Long, Edwin	18.50	15	>17	
	Smickley, Glenn, CGCS	5.20	<u>21</u>	<u>31</u>	
			57	78	135
70	MAAGCS				
	Collins, Brandon	16.2	12	12	
	Sweeney, Richard, CGCS	9.80	18	15	
	Urbanski, Jonathan	9.10	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	
			47	44	91

Place	Team/Member Name	Hcp	Round 1	Round 2	Total
		<u>Index</u>	<u>Net Points</u>	<u>Net Points</u>	<u>Gross</u>
6	MAAGCS				
	Cohoon, Stephen, CGCS	12.4	-1	3	
	Furlong, Scott, CGCS	13.2	-6	>1	
	Long, Edwin	18.50	0	1	
	Smickley, Glenn, CGCS	5.20	<u>>-9</u>	<u>1</u>	
			-7	5	-2
20	MAAGCS				
	Britton, Stephen	7.70	0	0	
	Guzek, Chester C.	.00	-1	-3	
	Wendt, Peter, CGCS	11.70	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>	
			2	-14	-12
73	MAAGCS				
	Collins, Brandon	16.2	-6	-6	
	Sweeney, Richard, CGCS	9.80	-6	-9	
	Urbanski, Jonathan	9.10	<u>-8</u>	<u>-8</u>	
			-20	-23	-43



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Members,

We are in the process of changing our look. You have seen it in our logo and emails. We are now doing so in this newsletter. We are trying a few new things, paper choice, adding color and of course striving to improve content and interest. Take the time to evaluate and provide feedback on your first impressions. Any comments positive or negative are welcome. You may send comments to me at bpost@corscreekgolfclub.net or to Theresa Baria at maags@earthlink.net.

Thank you,
Brett Post
Newsletter Editor

H2B Program: The Justification

Chad Adcock, GCS, TPC Avenel

Seasonal labor is a necessity in the golf industry in the Mid-Atlantic states and throughout the country. The Tournament Players Club at Avenel operates a seasonal business here in the mid-Atlantic, just nine miles from downtown Washington D.C. We need seasonal labor because our membership plays very little golf during the winter months. Our turf grasses do not grow in the frigid winters and cool springs that we experience this far north. Similar to many other agricultural plants, turf grasses have a seasonal growth pattern and will go dormant when soil and atmospheric temperatures are consistently cold. Our maintenance needs quadruple during the late spring, summer and fall when the vigor of turf growth matches the number of rounds played at Avenel.

TPC Avenel is located in an area where the economy is still quite strong and labor is already very difficult to find and retain on a seasonal basis. Compounded by our need to lay off employees for the winter, labor is often the most difficult aspect of our entire industry.

Golf courses used to rely on students for seasonal staffing. However, after the dot.com boom and tech boom, young people would much rather be in front of a computer in the air conditioning making larger salaries as opposed to working hard outdoors on a golf course.

I firmly believe that the current struggle for immigration reform has gotten out of control and placed undue strain on government initiatives such as H2A and H2B programs. These programs are seen as avenues for illegal immigration by our representatives in Washington. In actuality, the H2B workers come for nine months and do a great job and then return home to their families. The problem with illegal immigration lies with our government's inability to come up with more labor solutions such as the H2B program and their inability to streamline these processes making it easier to obtain legal documented seasonal labor. Companies that have seasonal labor needs are dotted throughout the Washington D.C. area in construction, landscaping and service-oriented businesses. These companies currently hire workers with documentation that is questionable but due to the survival mentality, managers overlook these flaws in documentation in order to get by. Don't blame the immigration worker who is looking to feed his family or the employer who seeks out temporary labor solutions south of the border. The problem is much more deeply rooted in our government's inability to deal with a growing labor problem in a timely manner.

In review, many golf courses across the country miss the opportunity to acquire employees from the H2B program because the nationwide quotas are extremely small compared to the actual number of needed employees. The result is a survival state of mind when it comes to hiring seasonal labor and many managers are overlooking key red flags that signal that an employee is here illegally. These quotas must be raised if we are to halt the hiring of undocumented workers within the industry while still having a sufficient supply of seasonal labor to sustain our businesses. As programs such as H2B become more common and are used by more companies, I believe that undocumented workers will in essence run out of work and return home in an effort to become documented. I would like to see H2B programs strengthened as opposed to weakened.



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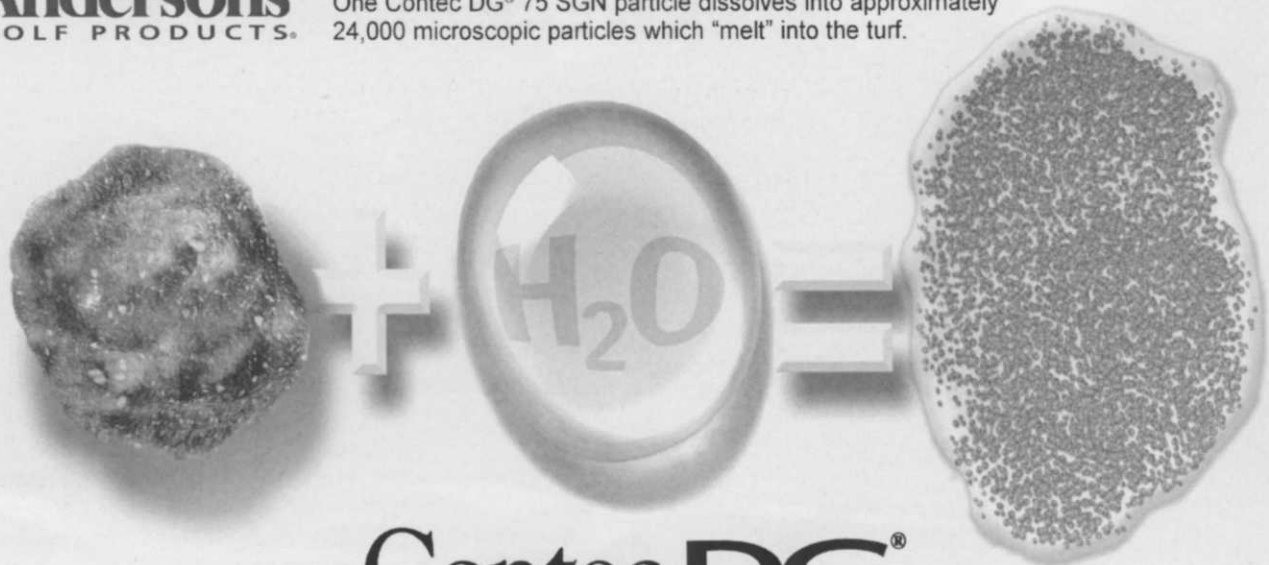
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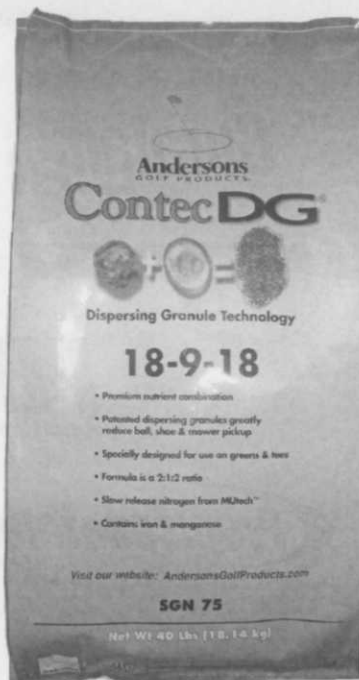
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