

# TURFGRASS MATTERS

March/April 2009

Volume 80, Number 1

## Education Update

9th Annual

### Spring Education Seminar

What a great turnout for this year's educational seminar! The event was the best attended event we've had in recent memory, and we appreciate your interest in and support of MAAGCS Education! I would like to thank our sponsors first and foremost, who generously give to this worthy cause each year, and who enable us to offer the seminar at an affordable price to our membership.

This year's sponsors for this event were Turf Equipment & Supply Co., Inc., Fisher & Sons, Finch Services, Genesis Turfgrass, and Syngenta. Thank you all for your charity and support!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention those who played a critical support role in making this event a success. Hats off to Steve Evans and Theresa Baria!

Based on the comments we've heard, it sounds like the decision to change the location of the meeting to The Gathering Place in Clarksville, MD was a good one. The more centrally-located, modern facility had plenty of room for social networking between presentations, and the food (and ice cream!) was delicious. We always appreciate any feedback you have that can help us to improve the experience for next year (and I promise we'll fix the sunlight problem in the afternoon!).

A number of superintendents took advantage of the promotion offering the seminar free of charge to their assistants who signed up for new membership. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new MAAGCS Assistant Superintendent members!

Steve McDonald presented some of his research updates, and gave us some good reminders for the upcoming season on a variety of products and application procedures. He then gave an "outside-the-box"

presentation about doing your own research on the golf course. This was very pertinent because I hear of more and more superintendents who are doing this. What better way to know for sure if that product is going to do what they say on your course, in your microclimate, with your subspecies of turf, etc.

Brian Steinwand enlightened us on the extensive and highly bureaucratic pesticide registration process at the Environmental Protection Agency, and helped us understand why it takes 10 years to get a product on the market.

Paul McMahan provided us a good irrigation snapshot of what things he has seen in this region and how superintendents are dealing with various problems, such as addressing proper selection and spacing of sprinkler heads.

And finally, Dr. Shawn Askew reviewed his data and provided new recommendations for selective control of bermudagrass and other undesirable species in cool-season turf.

In case you missed the seminar, you may want to call your neighbor and get his or her notes from the day, because there was a lot of solid new information presented. We hope to see you at monthly meetings throughout the season where we will continue to provide educational opportunities to bring extra value to these golf events.

Thank you again for your continued interest and support of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents!

Jon Lobenstine

Education Chair



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Although the current economy has been everyone's major concern to date, this year has started out on some very positive notes in and around the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Meeting and event attendance for the first three months of the year have been better than expected. To kick off the season, the joint reception in New Orleans followed by the MAAGCS Education Seminar later in the month of February had higher than anticipated attendance. This year, the Education Seminar and the Skeet Shoot were moved to an earlier date to promote attendance. Several years ago, the GCSAA moved the Golf Industry Show from the middle to the beginning of February. It only made sense to move our Education Seminar to the end of February away from the USGA Regional Seminar at Woodholme Country Club in March and to a time of the year when the start of the golfing season would not limit attendance. Similarly, the Skeet Shoot was moved to a time of the year when weather conditions may not be as ideal for golf, and a second Skeet Shoot was put on the schedule in November. The newest addition to the meeting schedule is the kayaking event in June, and for the golfers, another joint meeting with the Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association at Washington Golf and Country Club on June 23rd. A July fishing trip and a joint event with the Greater Washington at the DC Nationals Ball Park are in the beginning stages of organization.

Membership renewals, new member applications and advertising packages continue to be processed and thank you for your timely submittals. The annual IAC survey will be sent out shortly so be sure to give us your feedback on the changes for 2009. Also, look for the results of the 2008 Superintendent's survey, which should be available shortly.

As always, please consider becoming more actively involved in our association. Attend more meetings, and if you can't make it, send your assistants. Consider hosting a monthly meeting. Our 2009 schedule is currently filled, but the 2010 schedule is open for volunteers. Also, Board of Directors positions and IAC positions will need to be filled in December. It's never too early to search for new candidates. A new position for an assistant superintendent will also be available to sit on the Board of Directors. Several assistants have already shown an interest in this opportunity. Inquiries about this position or any BOD position can be made through the MAAGCS office or any member of the Board of Directors.

Also available is a position for a local superintendent on the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) Board of Directors. This position would consist of a two year term, with a monthly meeting in Annapolis, and would aid in strengthening relations between the MTC and the surrounding superintendent's association. Interested individuals should also contact the MAAGCS office.

Again, thanks to all of the MAAGCS supporters and hope to see you all soon!

Thanks again,

Mark Kingora

MAAGCS, President



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## 2009 GCSAA COLLEGIATE TURF BOWL

### Maryland Team Takes 4<sup>th</sup> Place

It's a turf war! Teams battle over turf, about turf, in the turf, and determine the species of turf, what's under turf, what's wrong with turf, what to do with turf. You get the picture. This turf war, known as the Turf Bowl, is an annual competition open to collegiate student chapters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

In 2000, under the guidance of Dr. Kevin Mathias, a two-person team of Maryland students traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to enter their first national Turf Bowl contest. Scoring 185.5 points this inaugural team placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of 45 teams.

Now, fast forward to 2009 and a return to New Orleans, Louisiana where the Maryland team of Michal Owens, Steve Hutzell, Chris Thayer, and Kenny Meyers took 4<sup>th</sup> place in a competitive field of 83 teams while the team of Drew Prossa, Andrew Lichtenburg, Allen Harryman, and John Lytle placed 17<sup>th</sup>. Purdue won the event with a score of 435 while the 4<sup>th</sup> place Terp team tallied 420 points.



Standing left to right: John Lytle, Allen Harryman, Dr. Kevin Mathias (advisor), Andrew Lichtenberg, and Drew Prossa. Sitting left to right: Chris Thayer, Michal Owens, Kenny Meyers, and Steve Hutzell.

With the level of competition escalating annually the 2009 team set an enviable and first time achievement of placing the highest, 4<sup>th</sup> place, of any previous Maryland teams. Over the past ten years Maryland has placed a team in the top 10 nine times.

The Collegiate Turf Bowl tests the students' knowledge and golf course maintenance experience in such areas as weed, insect, and disease identification, mathematics, soil fertility, turfgrass growth and development, business management and turfgrass identification. Students begin to prepare for this February event during the Fall semester by enrolling in a one credit course taught by Dr. Mathias. Congratulations are in order for these years' student competitors for their hard work and outstanding performance.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition / 2009 Top Ten Results

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
Purdue	1	435	Purdue	6	415.5
Iowa State	2	423.5	U. of Arkansas	7	415
Purdue	3	422.5	Penn State	8	413
<b>U. of Maryland</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>420</b>	U. of Tennessee	9	410.5
Penn State	5	416	U. of Wisconsin	10	408

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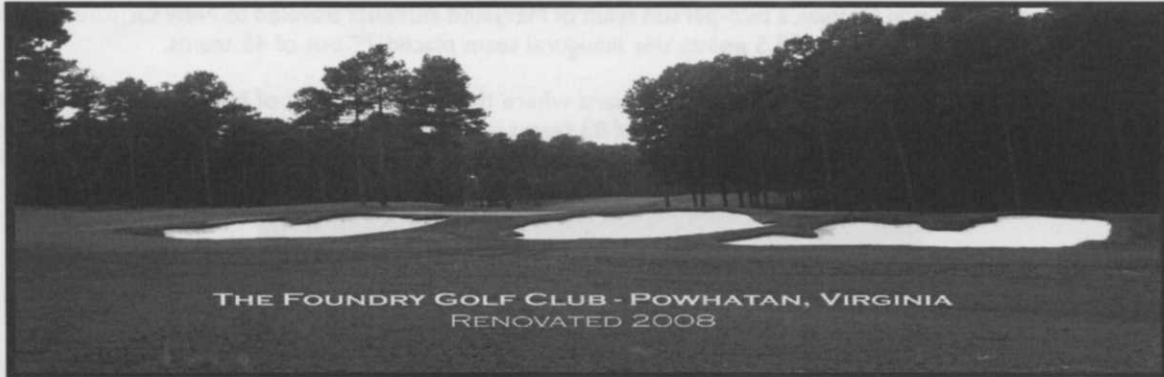
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The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its annual ski trip February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Seven Springs Ski Resort.

A good time was had by all.

Above is Scott Furlong and Randall Pinckney getting ready for a day of skiing.

Thanks again to Mike Hutchison, Sports Aggregates, and Randall Pinckney for arranging this event.



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## NEWS & NOTES

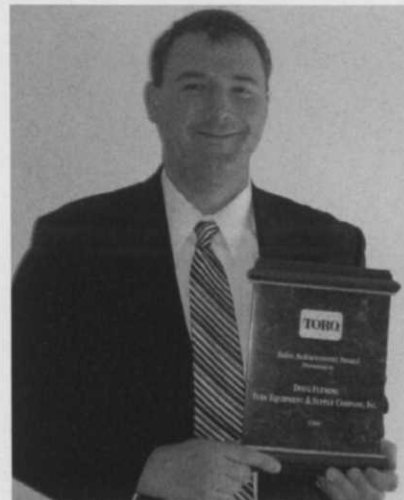
### New Members

Ryan Anderson, Class C, Belle Haven CC  
 John Calhoun, Class A, Cross Creek GC  
 Tim Downey, Class C The Members Club at Four Streams  
 Galen Evans, Laytonsville GC Class C  
 Tom Fisher, Bretton Bay, Class C  
 Chad Hultquist, Class C, Chevy Chase Club  
 Joe Kienke, Class C, Lakewood CC  
 Charles Main, Student, Bretton Woods Recreation Center  
 Eric Monning, Norbeck CC, Class C  
 Charles Main, Student, Bretton Woods  
 Spiro Manolas, Belle Haven CC  
 Garrett Neville, Dominion Valley CC  
 Kurt A. Peterson, Class F, Stadler Nurseries, Laytonsville, MD  
 Adam Rice, Dominion Valley CC  
 Chris Sirolli, Woodlands/Diamond Ridge GC, Class C  
 Kirk Warburton, Class C, Columbia CC  
 Douglas Witcraft, Class A, The Timbers at Troy

### Congratulations

Brian (Fountain Head CC) and Amanda Gietka. They are the parents of their first child, Chloe Isla Gietka born Saturday night, March 14th. Chloe weighed 6#, 8oz. Both Amanda and Chloe are doing great.

To Raymond Nash, CGCS, Dominion Valley Golf Club, who is a newly certified Golf Course Superintendent.



On February 4, 2009, Doug Fleming was awarded the Green Blazer Award from The Toro Corporation. The Green Blazer Award is a prestigious award given to Toro's finest. Doug was commended for his leadership, customer care and satisfaction, sales and dedication to the industry. He was cited as "an appropriate blend of family, fun and work." Doug nomination packet included letters of recommendation from customers and co-workers, as well as an analysis of his sales performance. We congratulate Doug on this fine accomplishment. (Doug serves on the MAAGCS Board of Directors as their IAC Rep)



MAAGCS held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sporting Clay Tournament Tuesday, March 17, 2008 at the Prince Georges Trap & Skeet Center in Greenbelt MD. Again, this year the host of this event was Mr. Rhys Arthur, CGCS, of Sports Aggregates. Trophies were furnished by Mr. Jeff Michel of M & M Consultants and were furnished to the winners who are listed below:

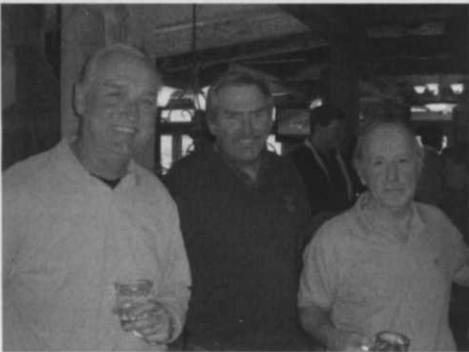
**Top Gun Flight Winners:**

1st- Ed Walker 49/50  
2nd- Rob Larsen 39/50  
3rd- Jeff Michel 36/50

**2<sup>nd</sup> Flight Winners:**

1st- Robin Dean 27/50  
2nd- Seth Greenwood 26/50  
3rd- Scott Wunder 25/50

Prior to the shoot, a delicious lunch was provided by Red, Hot and Blue.



A Retirement party was held for Rick Hill on Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Austin Grill in Centreville, Va. Over 25 MAAGCS and Greater Washington Superintendents attended to pay tribute to Rick Hill's career. Those attending were a "who's-who" of "old-timers" who knew and worked with Rick in the past. You had to have some grey hair to get in the door.

Rick started in the Irrigation business with his dad in 1972 and then joined Aqua-Flo in the early 80's. Aqua-Flo was a Buckner distributor and Rick did many systems and pump house installations in the Mid-Atlantic. Aqua-Flo was later sold to Century Rain-Aide. Rick spent many years working for Century, an irrigation supplier in Chantilly, that later became John Deere Landscapes. In 2002, Rick joined the corporate world of John Deere and ultimately became the manager of Golf Irrigation.

Rick was always known for helping many Superintendents whenever help was needed, and did it for many years.

Rick is now pursuing his lifetime hobby and has opened a Sporting Clay Facility in Harrisonburg, Va called the "Flying Rabbitt". If you are ever going down Route 81, stop in and see him. The number for the Flying Rabbitt is 540-574-2529.

## MAAGCS 2009 SCHEDULE

April 28<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting MA/GW, Stonewall GC  
May Superintendent/Pro May 12<sup>th</sup> Argyle CC  
June 9<sup>th</sup> Kayaking  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> Joint Meeting MA/GW, Washington Golf  
July (tba)  
August (tba) Bethesda (Stewards)  
September 15<sup>th</sup> Algonkian Supt/Assistant  
October 13, Woodholme CC (Annual Championship)  
November 10<sup>th</sup> Skeet Shoot  
December (Annual Meeting and Elections)

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### New Turfgrass Education Initiatives at the University of Maryland

The economic downturn which we face both as a nation and as individuals will force us to reevaluate how we conduct our day to day activities. Change is inevitable and how we adapt to this new business environment will determine our ability to compete. Education is a major cornerstone in allowing us to better adapt to these future challenges.

At the University of Maryland we have been actively involved over the past year in reviewing our educational offerings in turfgrass science and management. Starting in 2009 new initiatives in our undergraduate education and new online educational opportunities will better serve both our Maryland and regional stakeholders. The following initiatives represent innovative and unique methods in delivering quality education for both resident and online students.

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture and the Institute of Applied Agriculture are offering courses to both our baccalaureate and academic certificate students. Dr. Thomas Turner, Dr. Mark Carroll, Mr. Roy Walls, and Dr. Kevin Mathias will be teaching in this joint program. This initiative benefits all of our turfgrass students by bringing together the teaching resources and expertise of two programs thus providing a truly exemplary educational experience. Two new courses, **Surveying & GPS Applications in Agriculture** and **Irrigation and Drainage Practices for Turf** have been developed and will be offered in the fall 2009 semester and the spring 2010 semester. Dr. Carroll and Dr. Mathias will also be co-teaching an introductory turfgrass management course in the fall 2009 semester.

Within the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) two new options, Sports Turf Management and Golf Course Construction Management will start in the Fall 2009 semester. This will allow students more options of study within our Turfgrass Management program. The IAA's nationally recognized Golf Course Management program will continue to prepare top-notch superintendents while these new options will meet an industry demand for trained individuals in the areas of sports field management and golf course construction operations.

Online industry training modules, that can be used as an effective means to update and train your staff in different areas of turfgrass management ranging from soil fertility to insect identification and control, were unveiled at Turfgrass 2009 Conference and Trade Show. Several of these modules meet Pesticide Recertification requirements by MDA and can also be used to maintain professional certifications. These modules are self pacing, available 24/7, and allow self assessment of the subject matter. To get more information on these online training modules go to [www.iaaOnlineCourses.umd.edu](http://www.iaaOnlineCourses.umd.edu).

Finally, the Gateway program just got underway during the fall 2008 semester and will allow students majoring in turfgrass and horticulture, among other majors, to begin their education at the IAA. Once in the IAA they can then apply for transfer to the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources baccalaureate program. For more information about the gateway program contact Glori Hyman at 301-405-4685.



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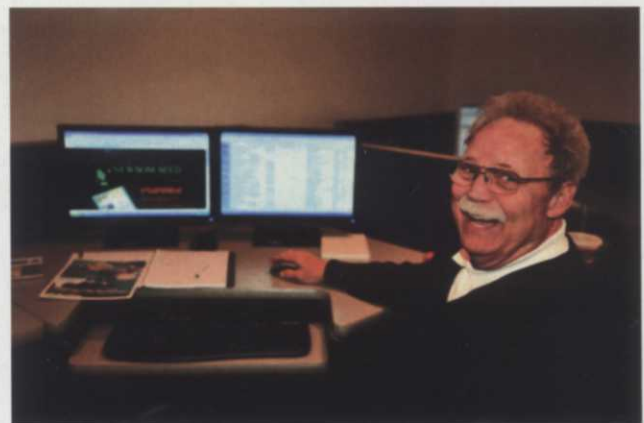
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