

TURFGRASS MATTERS

May / June 2009

Volume 80, Number 2



**Superintendent Professional
Tournament
Argyle Country Club
Story on Page 3**



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In my last President's Message, many of us were concerned about the economy and I'm sure a lot of us still are. Now, to add to our concerns, we are dealing with heavy rains, high grass and increased disease pressures, which also negatively affect the number of rounds of golf and decrease the overall use of all of our facilities. Hopefully some better weather is in the future.

Most of the following information is as repetitive as our current weather. Membership directories are soon to be published. Thanks to all of you who have renewed your MAAGCS membership. If you haven't submitted your dues renewal payment, please make payment as soon as possible, so that the Membership Directory can be accurate and up-to-date. If you have received a dues renewal reminder and you have questions regarding your bill, please do not hesitate calling Theresa in the MAAGCS office.

Thanks to Ed Long at Stonewall Golf Club for hosting the April joint MAAGCS/GWGCSA meeting and thanks to Mike Barrett of Argyle Country Club for hosting the Superintendent/Pro event. Both courses were in great condition, and we hope to have the opportunity to have another event at these facilities in the future.

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. Initial organization has begun for the joint MAAGCS/ESGCSA/VGCSA reception at the 2010 Golf Industry Show in San Diego, California. 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.

The position for a local superintendent on the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) Board of Directors has been filled by Randall Pinckney from Manor Country Club. The ESGCSA also has a representative, Guy McDonald, on the MTC Board of Directors.

The results of the Superintendents Survey are being compiled and will be sent out shortly. Thanks to all of you that took the time out of your busy schedules to participate in the survey.

Thanks to all of the MAAGCS supporters. The new advertising package has been successful, and we appreciate all of the feedback that we have received. Revisions and improvements will be made to the current advertising program. If anyone has addition comments, please let us know so that we can include your concerns during the revision process.

Thanks again,
Mark Kingora
MAAGCS, President



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

Joint Meeting w/GWGCSA, April 28, 2009

On April 28th the MAAGCS held a joint meeting with the Greater Washington GCSA at Stonewall Golf Club located on beautiful Lake Manassass. The meeting began with a presentation to Steve McCormick, Columbia CC from Junior Ruckman, Lebanon Seed, for the dog of the year contest which was won by Willie, Steve's late wildlife manager at Columbia and his and his wife's close companion. A very fitting tribute for a well deserved pet and owner. The meeting also had presentations from Jay Nalls, Norbeck CC and Teddy Blauvent, Hampshire Greens GC. Jay featured some of his out of the box ideas that really got people thinking about ways to improve their operations. Teddy did an excellent recap of a large scale bunker renovation he just completed at Hampshire Greens. Thank you to both speakers for sharing your experiences with all of us.

A cold cut lunch was excellent as the warm sun shone on a truly wonderful golf facility. Ed Long and his crew prepared Stonewall to near perfection for our Shamble event. Teams were made of 4 players with two best individual scores counting for the team score, in a Shamble format. The winners are listed below.

Thank you to everyone at Stonewall for hosting our event and for the wonderful service we received.

Team 1st place Pete Riccardi, Glenn Smickley, Mike Maloney and Nate Grayson

(-7) 137

Team 2nd place Corey Haney, Mike Mueller, Bo Jumbercotta, Jeff Van Fleet (-6) 138

Team 3rd Place Quent Baria, Brett Post, Scott Wagner (-1) 143

CTP#4 Andrew Harrison 9'6", **CTP#7** Rick Kent 3'7", **CTP#12** Quent Baria 4'4",

CTP#17 Eric Nelson 7'0"

LD#9 Troy Brawner, **LD#18** Brian Pardoe

Supt./Pro Tournament, May 12, 2009

Congratulations to John Dunker and Phil Bowers of Mt. Vernon CC for winning the championship trophy at this years Supt. /Pro tournament with a 1st place worthy score of 62 net. Scott Furlong and Cary Sciorra from RTJ gave a good run at back to back titles but fell just short of the Mt. Vernon team, but they did take 1st place gross with a tremendous 68. Special thanks to Mike Barrett (Supt.) and Jake Smith (asst.) and their crew for a perfectly prepared golf course. Mike Barillo (head PGA Professional) and GM Dave Hilliard were exceptional hosts and made this one of the easiest tournaments we have had in recent memory. Personal thanks from the MAAGCS Directors for being so accommodating. Those that didn't make this event missed out on an exceptional experience, great job Argyle. The rest of the winners were:

Championship Division Net

1st place John Dunker and Phil Bowers, Mt. Vernon CC 62

2nd place Mark Kingora and Jim Folks, Bethesda CC 66

3rd place Mike Barrett and Mike Barillo, Argyle CC 66

Gross

1st place Scott Furlong and Cary Sciorra, RTJ CC 68

2nd place Scott Wagner and Alex Lively, Leisure World 69

3rd place Bryan Bupp and Randy Barnes, Bretton Woods 70

Open Division Net

1st place Rob Larsen and Andrew Harrison, JD Landscapes 61

2nd place Joe Herkalo, CJH Greens and Troy Brawner, Bethesda CC 66

Gross

1st place Jake Smith and Eddy Borda, Argyle CC 75

2nd place Jay Nalls, Norbeck CC and Mike Leonard, PGA Member 77

Hole Prizes

Long Drive Professional Ray Sauser; Long Drive Assistant Superintendent Brian Soper

CTP #5 Pro Hunter Wood 9'1", CTP #5 MAAGCS Andrew Harrison 5'8"

CTP#7 Pro Kevin Tanner 7'6", CTP#7 Superintendent Ray Nash 36'11"

CTP#13 Pro Randy Barnes 10'7", CTP#13 Superintendent Bryan Bupp 18'3"

CTP#17 Pro Jeff Zachman 5'8", CTP#17 Superintendent Glenn Smickley 14'0"



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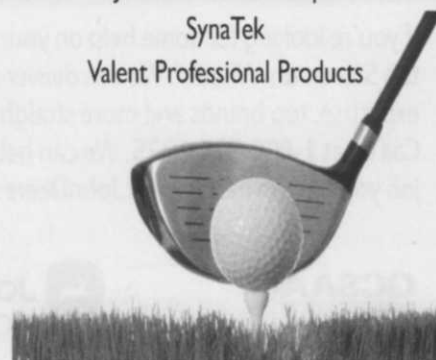
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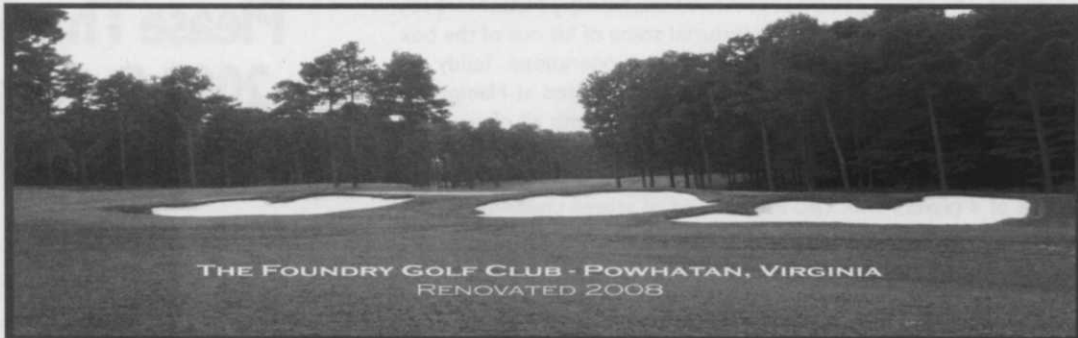
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News & Notes

New Members:

Toby McCleaf, Class C, Fountain Head CC
Brad Crawford, Hayfields CC, Class
Mark Harper, Class C, Crofton CC
Lisa McCormick, Class F, Murrays Sod
Patrick J. Rose, Jr., Class C, Lowes Island Club
Steven Segui, Class F, Turf Trade
Adam Stewart, Wilmington Country Club, Class SM

Congratulations:

Brian Hogan (Lake Arbor Golf Course) and his wife, Patricia, are the proud parents of a son, Raymond Allen Hogan. The baby was born on 4/21/09 and weighed 9lb 13 oz. Mom and baby (and of course, Dad) are doing great!!!

Mr. & Mrs. Jason Wirtz (G. L. Cornell) on the birth of their daughter, Lydia Hayes. She was born on 5/20/2009 and weighed 7 lbs, 4 oz, and was 21 inches long. Mom, dad and baby are doing great.

Condolences:

To the family and friends of Fred Moore, Sr. (Collins Wharf Sod) on his death).

To the family and friends of Wayne Evans on the death of his father, Robert Evans.

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Government Relations

The 2009 Maryland General Assembly adjourned April 13th, 2009 after hearing several bills pertaining to our industry. This is the first year of many, I believe, where we will be facing increased scrutiny for pesticide and fertilizer applications. Your continued support in facing the challenges to our industry is greatly appreciated. If you would like to read about the bills discussed below, please follow this link, or type it into your web browser if you have a paper copy of this article. <http://www.mlis.state.md.us/>

Chesapeake Bay Phosphorous Reduction Act of 2009

The first bill directly affecting our industry was the Chesapeake Bay Phosphorous Reduction Act of 2009 (HB 609 and SB 553). This was passed by the State House of Representatives and the State Senate by April 6th, 2009. It was supported by the Maryland Association of Green Industries, which includes golf courses, farmers, landscapers, horticulturists, arborists, etc. This bill (now law) was designed to reduce the runoff of phosphoric acid into the Chesapeake Bay. It limits the quantity of H₃PO₄ that you can use per season, and how much distributors can sell. This bill affects distributors more than end users. There are several major points to focus on in this bill for superintendents.

The first is this applies to commercial fertilizers. In section 6-201, paragraph f, the law states as follows:

“Commercial fertilizer” means any substance containing a recognized plant nutrient used for its plant nutrient content and designed for use or claimed to have value in promoting plant growth, except unmanipulated animal and vegetable manure, marl, lime, wood ashes, and gypsum.

“Unmanipulated” means manure that has nothing added to it, such as Perdue’s PPM, which is a 4-2-3. A manure product that has been boosted with other elements to change its ratio, such as an organic 7-1-5, would be affected by this law.

The second is in paragraph p, line 1, stating that low phosphorous fertilizer means:

Containing not more than 5% of available phosphoric acid (H₃PO₄)

Distributors will have to label fertilizers as to the percent H₃PO₅ they contain, in addition to the P₂O₅ required by law for N-P-K labeling. For instance, the P₂O₅ may be 5% or 10%, but the fertilizer may only have 50% of that P₂O₅ as available H₃PO₄. Additionally, the labels will limit the application rates of H₃PO₄ to ½ lb per 1000 sq. ft. per year.

The third point for this bill is any fertilizer labeled above 5% of H₃PO₄ would be labeled as “Not for use on established lawns or grass”, and it cannot be labeled with spreader settings.

The fourth point is the start date for the reduction act, which is on April 1st, 2011.

This bill may cause problems in our industry, especially in the use of organic materials, because it is virtually impossible to remove phosphorous from organic fertilizers. Take the time to look at the law and see if there are any problems your facility may have. I contacted Senator Lenett, who sponsored this bill, and he is planning on meeting with me over the next several months. This is a great opportunity to show him our environmental work, because he heads up many environmental laws (such as the Release Reporting bill!)

Seed Law

Another bill which passed is Senate Bill 91, a change to the seed law requested by the industry. It applies to cool season turfgrasses only, and covers the following items:

A “Sell by” date is now required on the label of cool season turfgrasses, similar to those dates on food products. This will provide additional information to consumers and will assist retailers in managing their inventories.

The valid test date period for cool season turfgrasses has changed from nine months to 15 months. Research has shown that these types of grasses retain viability for longer periods of time.


This legislation brings Md.’s Seed Law into harmony with the Federal Seed Act and the Association of American Seed Control Officials’ “Recommended Uniform State Seed Law”, or RUSSL.

These changes take effect on October 1st, 2009. Special thanks to Tom Walsh for giving us the heads up on this law!

Agriculture – Fertilizers and Pesticides – Release Reporting

The “dreaded” Agriculture – Fertilizers and Pesticides – Release Reporting (SB 917 and HB 929) failed to pass this year, but may rear their ugly heads again. Thanks to all the members who gave information and opinions about this bill, which was tremendously helpful in stopping it. Special thanks to Jon Shields, who testified with along with numerous others against HB 929. As always, our lobbyist “American Joe” (Joe Miedusiewski) was a strong shoulder to lean on as he and I testified against SB 917. Chava McKeel, the head of Government Relations for the GCSAA was a tremendous help in our preparation for the hearing. Without these good people helping us, we would be up the creek without a paddle (which would certainly ruin our kayaking event on June 9th!)

Thanks to everyone for all their help with the government relations work. Your input and dedication to our industry and the environment is unquestionable. By speaking out to our lawmakers, we make sure they know how we are truly stewards of the environment.




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Junior Ruckman (right), Territory Manager for LebanonTurf, with Steve McCormick, GCS at Columbia CC and Mark Kingora, President of MAAGCS presenting check for Willie, 2009 Dog of the Year.

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(Pictured at left is Mike Hutchison presenting check to 2008 winner, Glenn Smickley)

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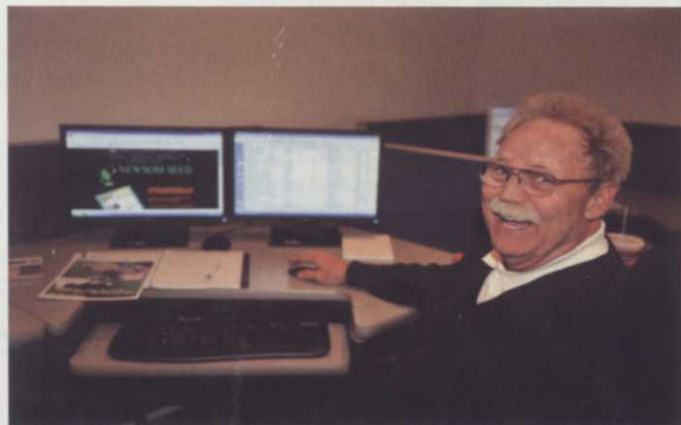
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