

TURFGRASS MATTERS

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My term as president of the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents is nearing the end. Many of the topics that I continually talk about in my letter are the need for member participation. This year we have three excellent candidates for the MAAGCS Board of Directors; Mike Barrett, CGCS, Argyle Country Club and host of the 2009 Superintendent/ Pro, Teddy Blauvelt, Hampshire Greens, educational presenter on bunker reconstruction at the April 2009 meeting at Stonewall Golf Club, and Matt Burton, Little Bennett, host of the 2008 Superintendent/ Assistant. Doug Fleming will be distributing information regarding the IAC Candidates shortly. Our Annual meeting will be hosted again this year by Jay Nalls, Norbeck Country Club. Look for the meeting date and candidate biographies in an upcoming mailing.

Our partnership and support of our surrounding associations continues to grow. Our joint meetings with the Greater Washington were very successful and will grow in 2010. Our relationship with the MTC has strengthened with the appointment of a MAAGCS superintendent to the MTC Board and our sponsorship of the Angie Cammarota Tournament continues. Sponsorship and support of the Virginia Turfgrass Council (VTC) and the Shield's Memorial have been ongoing, while initial sponsorship for the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association (VGCSA) Joe Saylor Memorial Charity Fundraiser and the Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents (ESAGCS) Turf Conference has begun and is intended for annual participation.

Several items that the current BOD continues to work on remain on our schedule for completion. Superintendent Survey results, the Assistant superintendent BOD position and Research Funding are three items that remain to be completed and will carry over into the 2010 BOD agenda if not completed by year's end. The continuity and cooperative efforts of each board member has made my time as president of the MAAGCS an invaluable experience, and will assure that any outstanding issues are resolved.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors and executive secretary, Theresa Baria for their continued effort. I would also like to thank all of the companies and everyone else who have individually contributed their time, effort or funds in support of our association.

Have a great holiday season, spend time with family and friends and hope all goes well in 2010!

Thanks again,

Mark Kingora, MAAGCS, President



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Chapter Delegates Meeting

October 10, 2009

Scott Wunder, MAAGCS Chapter Delegate, Secretary/Treasurer

On the Weekend of October 10th I had the privilege of attending the 2009 Chapter Delegates meeting. The main topics of discussion included the GCSAA Sustainability Initiative, Governance and Leadership at GCSAA, 2010 Candidate presentations, economic struggles and membership retention and recruitment. Below is a report of the meeting.

Chapter Delegates Meeting offers insight and a look ahead

Ninety GCSAA chapter delegates, representing 95 chapters, convened in Lawrence, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 9-11 to participate in a wide range of discussions, including the state of the golf economy, association governance, golf's relationship with the environment, and membership growth and retention.

"I was extremely impressed by the preparation and engagement of the delegates," said Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, meeting chairman and GCSAA vice president. "The questions asked were appropriate, and the discussions were thoughtful. That makes for a healthy meeting and gives me great confidence that the delegates will go back and communicate to their members so that they have a deeper understanding of what GCSAA is doing on their behalf and on behalf of the game."

Candidate presentations

In addition, candidates for president, vice president, secretary/treasurer and two open director positions met with the delegates. A shortened version of the candidate presentations will be available on GCSAA TV in the near future. Fitzroy, Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, Mass., is running unopposed for president; as is Bob Randquist, CGCS at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., for vice president. Current directors Sandy Queen, CGCS at City of Overland Park, Kan., and Pat Finlen, CGCS at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, Calif., oppose each other for secretary/treasurer. Both of their two year director terms expire this year. Four candidates are vying for two open director positions: Bob Farren, CGCS at Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort; Todd Lupkes, CGCS at Palouse Ridge Golf Course in Pullman, Wash; Bill Maynard, CGCS at Milburn Golf and Country Club in Shawnee, Kan.; and Mike Wooten, CGCS at Cedar Ridge Country Club in Broken Arrow, Okla.

"The nominating committee did an excellent job in providing the membership a solid slate of candidates for the election in February," Fitzroy said. The feedback from the delegates is there will be some difficult choices, but all are extremely worthy of service."

Association operations and financial update

Thirty-one of the 39 new chapter delegates participated in an orientation session to learn more about their role and in greater detail how GCSAA functions as an association. The full contingent of delegates heard a state of the association presentation from GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Mark Woodard, CGCS. He noted GCSAA has been challenged financially by declines in industry advertising, trade show space, and conference and show attendance. However, he said GCSAA is in a better position than many associations because of a healthy financial reserve, a supportive industry, a loyal membership and no long-term debt.

Woodward also said the association's solid footing is buoyed by its participation in numerous allied association initiatives and by the importance owners and influential golfers place on the golf course superintendent.

"In my first 15 months on the job I have had the opportunity to travel all over the nation and meet with a broad spectrum of the industry," Woodward said. "Two things stand out: First, golf has never been more unified and committed to strengthening the game; and second, the recognized value of the GCSAA member is at an all time high. GCSAA has its challenges, but the leadership really looks at the situation as one of opportunity. We are in a strong position and much of the credit for that goes to the membership."

Sustainability

Delegates were also updated on the work of GCSAA and The Environmental Institute for Golf in sustaining the game. Chief among the efforts is the Golf Course Environmental Profile. GCSAA Director of Environmental Programs Greg Lyman explained that the nutrient survey results would be released in early December, building on the land use and water use/conservation reports issued over the past two years. Lyman noted that the data from the surveys has been crucial in working with lawmakers, media and allied golf associations in detailing golf's environmental footprint. Lyman also discussed the importance of the development of the new superintendent competencies, which will include an element of environmental management.

Perhaps the highlight of the meeting was a presentation on sustainability by University of Kansas Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications Simran Sethi. An internationally respected authority on sustainability and contributor to NBC Nightly News, Oprah Winfrey Show and Planet Green Channel, Sethi spoke about the sustainability with a focus on the triple bottom line: people, planet and profit. She applauded GCSAA, its members and The Institute for their commitment to transparency and continuous improvement in managing facilities. *(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from page 3)

"It's a challenge for you, and I realize that," Sethi said. "You have to serve your employers and you are pressured by golfers for perfection. You must have patience in this effort. Communications will be important. You will have to demonstrate why a change of behavior is important. Use the tools out there that are available to help. I think what the association and you are doing is wonderful. As long as the association and you are committed to transparency and continuous improvement, then you can be successful against detractors."

First timers impressed

A format change that focused on creating opportunities for small group discussions, expanded time with the candidates and more opportunities for networking was well received, especially by first-time attendees.

"I was blown away," said Daniel Salois, GCSAA Class A member at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Toledo, Ohio, and delegate for the Northwestern Ohio GCSA. "This was a great way for me to learn more about GCSAA and all of the resources it provides for the members. We have a very sharp staff that is committed to serving the members. I am going to go back and share with my chapter just how much GCSAA can help them and their facilities."

Jay Eccleton, CGCS at The Emerald at Maple Creek in St. John's, Mich., and Michigan GCSA delegate, challenged his peers: "GCSAA puts it right there in front of us. You cannot blame them. Shame on us the member if we do not take advantage of the resources. I learned a lot about the election process and the association overall. I am impressed."

Other discussions included:

- GCSAA governance issues, including voting procedures, dual membership and the chapter affiliation agreement, which will be renewed Dec. 31, 2009.
- efforts by GCSAA to manage its expenses and generate new revenues. While the board will approve the association budget in December, the sentiment is not to raise member dues for 2010.
- the health of the GCSAA Education Conference and the Golf Industry Show, as well as the future rotation of the event.
- GCSAA advocacy efforts with lawmakers, media and other audiences.
- best practices by chapters to increase effectiveness and engagement.
- GCSAA membership recruitment and retention activities.

NOTE: Presentations from the Chapter Delegates Meeting are available at www.gcsaa.org. Detailed outcomes from the weekend will be distributed to delegates in the upcoming weeks for their use at chapter meetings.

Relatively speaking, whichever candidate, Sandy Queen or Pat Finlen that does not get elected to the Secretary/Treasurer position will most likely fill one of the spots for Director. This will leave only one spot available for Director of which four candidates are running. If you have any input, suggestions or questions regarding the upcoming elections please feel free to contact me by phone 410-239-3232 or email scottwunder@hotmail.com. Your thoughts will be taken into consideration when the Board of Directors meets to discuss the elections.

News & Notes

Congratulations:

To Steve and Beth McDonald. They are the proud parents of their first child, Nola McDonald born on October 14th at 1:53 P.M. She weighted 7 lbs, 9 oz and was just under 20 inches in length. Both mom and baby are doing great!

New Members:

Erik Mikkonen, Chesapeake Bay GC at NE Class A
Joe Haskins, The Woodlands/Diamond Ridge, Class SM



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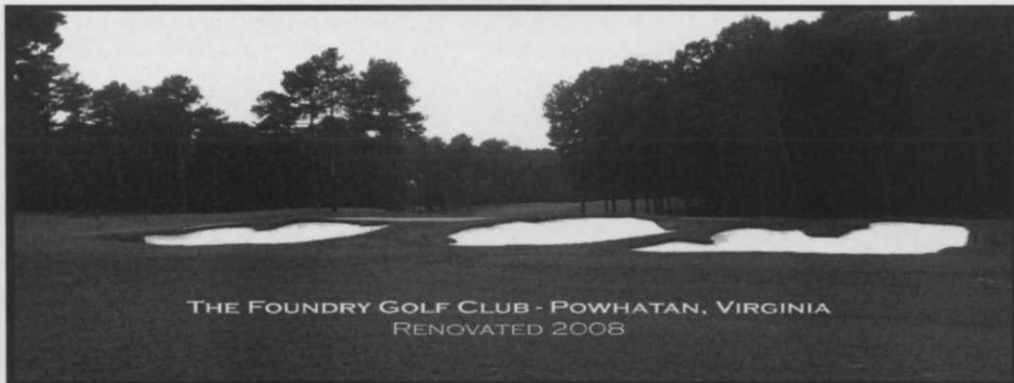
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2009 Annual Superintendent/Assistant

The annual Superintendent/Assistant tournament was held at Algonkian GC on Sept. 15th this year. Host superintendent Bryan McFerren and his crew did an excellent job preparing the course for the event. The weather and the golf course were perfect and some good players took home some prizes and bragging rights. Special thanks are due to Algonkian GC assistant superintendent Ray Midkiff for the hard work put in to get the course in shape. Due to budgetary constraints much of the work to prepare for the event fell on Ray's shoulders and his efforts were evident to everyone that participated.

Open Division Gross	63	Jason Wirtz (GL Cornell) and Jim McHenry (Oakwood Sod)
Open Division Net	62	Quent Baria (Valent) and Steve McDonald (Turfgrass Disease Solutions)
Super/Asst. Gross	76	John Dunker and Sean Owens (Mt. Vernon CC)
Super/Asst. Net	31	Mark Kingora and Mike Fuocco (Bethesda CC)
Long Drives	#4 Quent Baria	#17 Sean Owens

CTP #5 John Lobenstine 6'11"; #8 Steve McDonald 5'2"; #16 John Dunker 16'8"

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2009 HOLE-IN-ONE CHALLENGE

2009 Annual Championship Report October 13, 2009 at Woodholme CC

For the second year in a row our annual championship was held at a Baltimore area classic golf course. And for a second year in a row, the golf course was everything the field could handle, and then some. Woodholme put on a terrific show from start to finish. The friendly staff and incredible food was only surpassed by the immaculate conditioning of the golf course. All that participated were left feeling like they were treated to something special. Thank you to Woodholme, our sponsors and to all that participated. Special congratulations to Brett Walters for a hole in one on his final hole of the day. Brett arrived on the 5th tee with 98 strokes on his card and needing to hole out to break 100, great shot. The Sports Aggregates hole in one challenge will pay Brett \$250 and the MAAGCS \$250, thanks you Sports Aggregates. Congratulations to all the winners listed below.

Long Drive #1, Mike Evans, Sports Aggregates, Long Drive #11 Tim Downey, Four Streams GC,

CTP #3 Quent Baria, Valent Prof. Products 10'9"; CTP #5 Brett Walters, Chevy Chase Club, HOLE IN ONE; CTP #13 Mike Evans, Sports Aggregates 8'5"; CTP #17 Gordie Caldwell, Greenspring Valley 10'10"

Superintendent Division

Byron Lash Award (low net)	Bernie Hipkins, Worthington Manor	net 72
2 nd low net	Doug Hall, Towson G&CC	net 75
Rick Wakefield Award (low gross)	Marlin Ewing, Old South CC	85
2 nd low gross	Scott Wunder, Piney Branch CC	88

Affiliate Division

Low Net	Bill Neus, TESCO	net 77
2 nd Low Net	Andy Sheehan, Davisson Golf	net 78
Low Gross	Matt Miller, GL Cornell	91
2 nd Low Gross	Andrew Harrison, JD Landscapes	94

Open Division

Low Net	Devon Byrne, Falls Road GC	net 76
Low Gross	Jake Smith, Argyle CC	85

2010 VIRGINIA TURFGRASS COUNCIL CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

MONDAY, January 18

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Nutrient Management Seminar
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Certified Irrigation
Contractor Class (Day 1 of 2)
Trade Show: Move in Large Equipment

TUESDAY, January 19

Trade Show: Set Up
Landscapers' Challenge
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Certified Irrigation
Contractor Class (Day 2 of 2)
8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Morning Seminars
Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Trade Show
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. 50th Anniversary Celebration

WEDNESDAY, January 20

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Reports from Virginia Tech
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Certified Irrigation
Contractor Exam
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Trade Show and Lunch
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. VTC Annual Meeting and
Reports from Virginia Tech
2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Concurrent Educational Tracks
Golf, Sports Turf, Sod, Lawn and Landscape

THURSDAY, January 21

7:00 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Initial Certification Review
Session for Core Exam
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Recertification Class, Part 1
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Recertification Class, Part 2

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