

TURFGRASS MATTERS

October 2010

Volume 82, Number 4



Photograph of 2010 MAAGCS
Annual Tournament Winners:
Left to right Tucker Langway,
Bryan Bupp (MAAGCS Golf
Chaitman) and Bernie Hipkins.

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We're coming to the home stretch of this 2010 golf season, and the leaves are beginning to turn color and fall. This means that a few items of business need to be mentioned. MAAGCS partner and advertising packages will soon be coming out, and dues invoices will be emailed to members in December. Please take a minute to double check and make sure that your contact information is up to date. Theresa will need to have this information accurate so she can get everyone's invoices to them in a timely manner.

It's been a great year for the MAAGCS. Thanks to the partnerships of our many sponsors and the continued support of all of our members we have been able to maintain solid financial position in spite of losing a few members this year.

We're planning to have our annual meeting this year at Norbeck Country Club for the third year in a row which will be held on Wednesday, December 8th. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a great day at the Club. If anyone has any interest in serving on our Board and would like to run, please contact Mark Kingora as soon as possible. We are always looking for a few good people to help serve the Association.


I hope this Fall season treats everyone well on their golf courses, and everyone makes it through the Thanksgiving Holiday without gaining too many unwanted pounds. I'll look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting at Norbeck in December.

Sincerely
Bryan McFerren, President, MAAGCS

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2011 Sponsorship Packages will be E-mailed to a representative of all Member Companies within the next few weeks.


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

MAAGCS ANNUAL TOURNAMENT
 Bryan Bupp, MAAGCS Golf Chairman and Grounds Superintendent
 Bretton Woods Recreation Center

On Tuesday October 26, Argyle CC hosted the MAAGCS Annual Championship. Our host Superintendent Mike Barrett and his staff did an excellent job preparing the golf course worthy of a championship venue. As always is the case at Argyle, the pro staff lead by head PGA Professional Mike Barillo took care of everything with a smile made everything easy on us. The dry weather held up the entire day with just enough breeze to keep things interesting. The course, the staff, the food and the weather combined for an overwhelming successful tournament. Thanks to all that participated and to all of our sponsors. The winners were:

CTP # Ryland Chapman, Genesis Turfgrass; CTP #7 Mike Barrett, Argyle CC; CTP #13 Bernie Hipkins, Worthington Manor; CTP #17 Troy Brawner, Bethesda CC

Long Drive (Sponsored by BASF) Scott Wunder, Piney Branch CC



(Pictured above Kevin Smith, Tim Davission and host Mike Barrett, CGCS)

Open Division Net Runner up	Ryland Chapman, Genesis Turfgrass	net 70
Open Division Net Winner	Ken Braun, Advanced bio turf systems	net 69
Open Division Gross Runner Up	Joe Herkalo, CJH Greens	80
Open Division Gross Winner	Kevin Smith, Davission Golf	80
Supt. Division Net Runner Up	Scott Wunder, Piney Branch CC	net 81
Supt. Division Net Winner	Tucker Langway, Bittersweet CC	net 74
Supt. Division Gross Runner Up	Bryan Bupp, Bretton Woods CC	85
Supt. Division Gross Winner	Bernie Hipkins, Worthington Manor	81

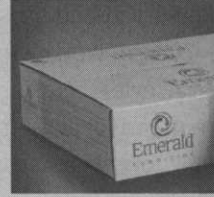
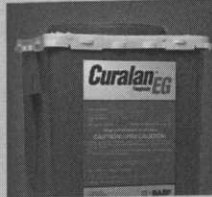
Welcome New Member:
 Amy Digrazio, Class F, GETSco

Bullets from the Boardroom

- The Annual Meeting and Elections will be held at Norbeck Country Club on December 8, 2010.
- Sam Kessel will be the new IAC Representative for 2011. Ryland Chapman from Genesis Turfgrass and Charlie Fultz from Griggs Brothers will be running for the alternate spot.
- Teddy Blauvelt, Jay Nalls, and Bryan Bupp will all be running for re-election to the board. Ryan Kraushofer and others to be determined will also be running for the board.

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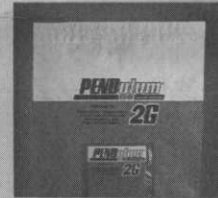
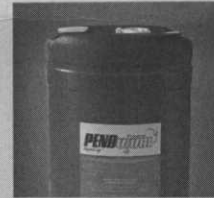
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I had the privilege of attending the GCSAA Chapter Delegates meeting on behalf of the MAAGCS held in Kansas City on October 22nd – 24th. The major topics of the meeting were the CEO search, a potential dues increase, Board of Director candidate presentations, the new Field Staff program, the Environmental Institute of Golf, and new programs and initiatives the GCSAA will implement. Below is a report of the meeting from GCSAA.

Candidate presentations, chapter success stories, dues discussion featured

GCSAA conducts its 2010 chapter delegates meeting, Oct. 22-23-24

A total of 91 GCSA chapters, represented by 87 delegates participated in a highly-engaging GCSAA Chapter Delegates meeting, Oct. 22-23-24.

The meeting began with an orientation session for first-time delegates at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., followed by a networking reception and dinner. The meeting continued with solid discussion on a variety of subjects for two days at the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, Mo.

A Positive Experience

"Awesome is all I can say," said Larry Balko, CGCS at Park Ridge Golf Course in West Palm Beach, Fla. We had great discussion and learned about the outstanding work that is being done on behalf of the members. If a delegate did not leave with a greater appreciation for the association and its members, then they just weren't listening."

The meeting included an update on GCSAA including financial metrics, new association initiatives, GCSAA candidate presentations, a town hall question and answer session, and chapter case study presentations. The responsibility of a delegate at this meeting is to represent their members and to take back information to share with them.

"I received several comments from delegates indicating the meeting went well," meeting chair GCSAA Vice President Bob Randquist, CGCS at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., said. "They came prepared to ask good questions and offer constructive feedback. The meeting is a key element of our governance system and the board and staff got a clear picture of what the members want from their association. At the same time, it allowed us as a board to share information that we need them to take back to their members. The meeting may have ended, but the process continues in pushing the information to all levels of membership."

Member Dues Increase Discussion

Certainly the most discussed item was a proposed GCSAA member dues increase which would take effect with May 2011 renewals and new member applications. Class A and SM dues would increase \$20 annually and Class C dues \$10 annually.

Proposed GCSAA member dues are established through a process that was created by the delegates that uses the Consumer Price Index as a guide. The members then vote upon the proposal at the association's annual meeting in February. The process calls for the association to consider a dues adjustment every two years as a means of ensuring a sustainable organization. The process is not automatic, and the GCSAA Board of Directors may elect not to bring forward dues adjustments according to schedule. Such was the case last year when the board opted to forgo consideration of an increase. Randquist said the board supports a dues increase for 2011 because it represents an opportunity for members to help ensure the success of their career and their facility. Dues account for 27 percent of the GCSAA budget, which is below the average of 38 to 40 percent for associations of similar size.

"The board fully realizes raising dues in this current economic climate is difficult," Randquist said. "But we see this as a necessary investment by

members. The increases allow us to make up the ground lost to inflation, which has been at 5.8 percent since our last dues increase three years ago. It allows us to continue to offer programs the members have deemed valuable to them and their facilities. We also believe the process developed by the members to implement dues increases does not create the hardship of larger increases in the past. Ultimately, the members determine whether the dues will increase or not by voting on the proposal in February."

Randquist noted that GCSAA has seen a decrease in revenues of \$5 million over the last three years due to a struggling economy, but proactive expense management by the board and staff has resulted in a reduction of expenses by \$5.4 million during that same period. GCSAA will have projected revenues of \$15.6 million by the end of 2010.

Field Staff Gains Traction

Popular with the delegates was the presentation of an expanded field staff program first announced earlier this year. The board has made public its desire to have all nine GCSAA regions staffed by a regional field staff representative as soon as possible. It is expected GCSAA will have five field staff employees by the end of 2010 (one at headquarters and four in the field), and seven by the end of 2011 (one at headquarters and six in the field). No timetable for staffing all of the regions has been created, but Randquist noted the success of the program has been duly recognized by the board.

The objective of the field staff program is to create a tie between chapters and GCSAA so that programs are utilized at a higher rate, communication is enhanced and membership is grown. The feedback from chapters who have utilized the program has been overwhelmingly positive.

Additional Discussion Items

- The search for a new GCSAA CEO was outlined. The position description has been posted on the GCSAA website and interviews are targeted for January 2011.
- Six chapters made presentation on programs they have instituted with the assistance of GCSAA resources in the areas of government relations, corporate partnerships, consolidation/sharing of resources and communications.
- New program initiatives in the area of web services, environmental programs, marketing communications, surveys and data and media public relations were shared.
- Considerable advancements were noted in the area of professional development resources with the new job board, self assessment tool and webcasting software.
- Outlined were new features for Conference and Show including education programs, networking opportunities and cost-saving options available to attendees.
- Candidate presentations for the offices of president, vice president and secretary/treasurer and a minimum of two and potentially three directors.

Presentations Available Online

The meeting's presentations are available online at <http://www.gcsaa.org/chapters/delegatemeeting.aspx>.

I would be more than happy to discuss any of the candidates for the Board of Directors or any other information from the meeting. Please contact me at (301)601-9240 or mburton@montgomerycountygolf.net. It was an honor to represent the MAAGCS at the Chapter Delegates meeting.

Matt Burton, MAAGCS Chapter Delegate
Golf Course Superintendent, Little Bennett Golf Course

September 7, 2010

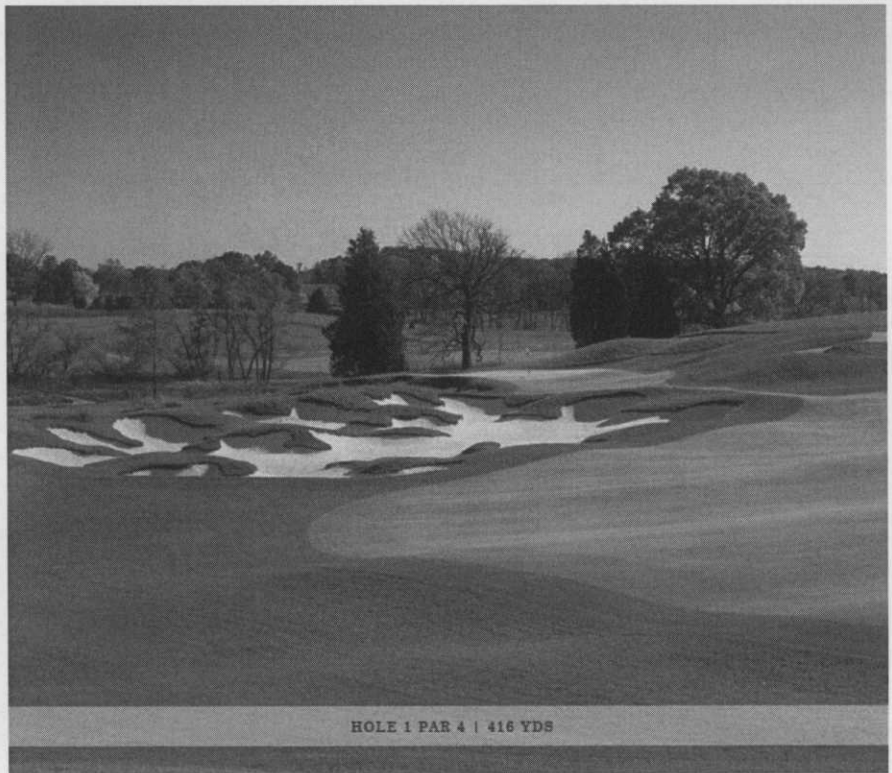
GWGCSA and MAAGCS Joint Meeting

Creighton Farms Golf Club

Host: Jeff Webster

Well, if you can attribute the number of strokes on your scorecard to the value per dollar of a local chapter meeting, then I'd say I got my money's worth!!

Creighton Farms opened their doors to both associations in September on an absolutely beautiful day at a very picturesque golf course. As many Nicklaus-designed courses are, beautiful environmental areas frame large portions of the course, and you've got to play a smart game to score well here.



Big thanks to our host Jeff Webster, our educational speaker, Dr. Mike Goateley (Virginia Tech), and the rest of the staff at Creighton Farms for their wonderful hospitality, flawless course conditions, and expeditious food & beverage service. It was certainly a day to remember!

Congratulations to the following individuals and teams who managed to stand out from the rest of the field!

- Jon Lobenstine, MAAGCS Secretary/Treasurer

Closest to the Pin #6 - Seth Greenwood

Closest to the Pin #9 - Matt Zarnstorff

Closest to the Pin #17 - Matt Zarnstorff

Long Drive #11 - Mike Hudenburg

2nd place team (Net)

Steve Stevenson
Trevor Carbow
Scott Jaques
Ed Walker (used as the blind draw for the 3-person team)

2nd place team (Gross)

Sam Kessel
Steve Cohoon
Jason Wirtz
Matt Miller

1st place team (Net)

Mike Rincon
Bill Goodrich
Rick Kent
Mike Hudenberg

1st place team (Gross)

Jeff Webster
Matt Zarnstorff
José Velásquez
Justin Bishop



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VTC Annual Conference and Tradeshow Continues to Buck the Typical Trend

For many of the country's turfgrass associations, both state and national, the past few years have brought times of anxiety — even angst, some might say — particularly concerning the groups' annual conferences. For most, the dour economy has driven down both attendee registrations and tradeshow booth sales, both of which are associations' key revenue producers. The Virginia Turfgrass Council (VTC), however, has defied that trend, posting increased attendance and booth sales at its annual conference for the past three years in a row.

The reasons for the VTC's success are many, says Tom Tracy, Ph.D., the association's executive director. "Perhaps the most important factor in our conference's continued growth was the decision by our board of directors to move the event from Richmond to Fredericksburg in 2006," he says. "Although Richmond was more centrally located for many of our members, the move to the Fredericksburg Conference & Expo Center not only provided a fresh venue for those who had tired of various hassles we faced in Richmond, but it also allowed us to expand into a more regional show. Since Fredericksburg is within a four-hour drive of much of the Mid-Atlantic, we now attract a substantial contingent of turf professionals not only from across Virginia but also from Maryland, New Jersey and Washington, D.C."

The event's growing attendance — this past year alone saw a 20% increase over 2009 — is also enticing more vendors to the tradeshow portion of the VTC's conference. "We now attract vendors from as far away as California," Tracy notes. "And for our upcoming conference, scheduled for January 17-20, 2011, we're already on track for another sold-out tradeshow, despite the continued economic difficulties many turfgrass suppliers are facing. That's likely because we devote so many hours of our conference to tradeshow-only time, so that attendees are not forced to choose between attending high-quality educational sessions and visiting vendors on the tradeshow floor. Clearly, our vendors feel that their presence at our show yields a valuable return on their investment since they have direct face-to-face access to so many of the region's key buyers of their products."

The move to a more regional attendance has also given impetus to the VTC's slotting of more nationally known speakers for the conference's educational program. While the program continues to rely heavily on turfgrass researchers from Virginia Tech, this year's program, will also feature presentations from Drs. Bruce Martin and Lambert McCarty (both from Clemson University), Dr. David Shetlar (Ohio State University) and Dr. Roch Gaussoin (University of Nebraska), as well as Darin Bevard and Keith Happ, from the United States Golf Association. As a special treat, Mark Prieur (of the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association) is slated to relate his experiences with Canada's increasing regulations concerning fertilizer and pesticide use, an issue of growing concern to many American turf managers.

As always, the VTC conference's educational program this year includes dedicated tracks for golf-course maintenance, sports-field management, sod production and lawn care/landscaping (many with GCSAA and STMA recertification credits). The event also offers classes for applicators needing pesticide recertification, another major draw for conference attendees.

Finally, Tracy believes that the Fredericksburg location itself has played an important role in the conference's success. "Fredericksburg is a family destination, even in January," he comments. "The city has a wealth of historic attractions, reflecting its role in both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. And the Conference and Expo Center is in the middle of a major retail area, with lots of shops and fine restaurants only a few minutes away. Plus, of course, our attendees love the Center's ample free parking, while our vendors appreciate the easy, drive-in access to the tradeshow floor."

The VTC's 51st Annual Turf & Landscape Conference and Tradeshow will be held at the Fredericksburg Conference & Expo Center, January 17-20, 2011. For attendee and vendor convenience, the VTC has a dedicated website where registration forms, the entire educational program and the tradeshow-floor layout can be found. For this information and more, visit www.turfconference.org. Or contact Tom Tracy at (757-464-1004) or (vaturf@verizon.net).

MAAGCS SCHEDULE

December 8, 2010, Annual Meeting, Norbeck Country Club

TBA, MTC Conference, University of Maryland

February 9, 2010, GIS Orlando Reception, Doubletree Resort

March 2, 2011, MAAGCS Education Seminar, Ten Oaks Ballroom

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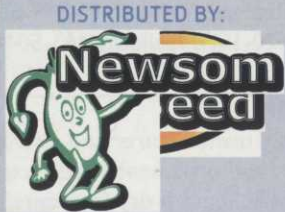
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