



# TURFGRASS MATTERS

Spring 2013

## MAAGCS Rounds for Research initiative

By now you have probably heard that the MAAGCS is participating in the Rounds 4 Research program.



In case you were not aware or do not know much about this program, I will digress just a bit. You might remember in mid 2012 the Environmental Institute for Golf (GCSAA’s philanthropic organization) announced that it would be conducting Rounds 4 Research after the Carolinas GCSA administered it on a smaller scale for three years.

Working with a handful of chapters, the Carolinas GCSA generated nearly \$350,000 in three years to support local research and advocacy efforts. Noting that the program had grown beyond its adminis-

trative capacity, the Carolinas approached GCSAA with the challenge to take it national and share this wonderful opportunity with others.

So why is the MAAGCS involved in Rounds 4 Research? Quite frankly, we are operating in an unsustainable manner in addressing many of our needs. We know research dollars are getting tougher to generate. We know that we need to engage with local and state lawmakers to advocate on behalf of our game and business. We know that we need to attract the best and the brightest to continue our profession through scholarship. In short, we have needs that we cannot sustain with the resources we generate by ourselves and industry partners.

Rounds 4 Research is based on the practice of securing donated rounds of golf and putting them up for public

auction. This mechanism provides for the end user – the golfer – to contribute directly to activities that ultimately benefit them, their facilities and the game.

While the funds come from golfers, it is on us as a chapter to build an inventory of rounds. I am asking each of you to work with your facility leadership to secure one tee-time (defined as a four-some) in each of the next two years (2013 and 2014). You can do this by completing the online donation form at

[www.rounds4research.com](http://www.rounds4research.com) or by contacting Noel Riley, GCSAA’s Coordinator, Environmental Programs at 1.800.472.7878 or by email at [nriley@gcsaa.org](mailto:nriley@gcsaa.org) and the information will be entered for you. Info can also be accessed on our website [www.maagcs.org](http://www.maagcs.org)

I am excited about the opportunity presented to us.

But this will take a commitment by each and every one of us to secure donated rounds and promote the program to our golfers / patrons / members. I ask that you donate a round today so that we have a healthy profession, industry and game for years to come.

Sincerely,  
 Scott Wunder  
 Past President  
 MAAGCS

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## Presidents Report

When I stated at the Annual Meeting that 2013 would likely be another predictably unpredictable year, I was thinking more of the summer, rather than my late March aeration schedule revolving around whether we had snow cover or not! It sure has been an interesting “spring” so far to say the least, if you can call it that. Deciding on Poa seedhead suppression and ABW aduicide applications before or after snowfall? Really?

Well, with another winter behind us and the most recent 3-month forecast from NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center looking towards above average temperatures, it seems we’ll be back on track in no time and we can get energized about doing what we do best – providing great golf experiences in the Mid-Atlantic!

For those who were able to make it to our best-attended-ever Annual Education Seminar (thank you!), you were treated to a wide range of presentations, highlighted by Stephen Keating’s 2-hour talk on leadership. I have heard him speak many times, and it’s pretty easy to understand why he has over 400,000 followers on Twitter (@LeadToday). He also has a great blog at <http://stevekeating.me> you should check out for more discussions on leadership and making a difference with your

fellow employees (and fellow humans for that matter!).

We had a good turnout for our Superintendent-Assistant Tournament at Hampshire Greens GC this year, and in spite of below average weather, the

**“People will do what you do light years before they do what you ask”**

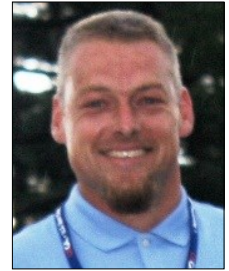
course was in great shape, and greens were superb! I’m looking forward to April’s Superintendent-Pro Event at Norbeck CC, which is sure to be another good test of golf on a fun 18-hole track. Hope to see you all there!

An extremely important new initiative for our association is Rounds for Research. Past President Scott Wunder spoke about that program at our Education Seminar, and we have information about the program on our new web site, which I hope you will check out! This is a great opportunity for us to be able to do more research at our properties (be it water testing, envi-

ronmental, product-oriented, etc.), and also be able to help some pertinent research efforts at University of Maryland as well! The Rounds for Research Auction will take place in June and a minimum of 80 percent of the revenue generated in the online auctions goes directly back to our chapter. Seems like a no-brainer to me, and I hope you think so, too!

2013 is going to be a great year! Thank you to each of you who have helped make the MAAGCS a strong association that brings great value to our members through so many quality networking and educational opportunities!

Two closing thoughts from Stephen Keating’s talk:



Jon Lobenstine  
MAAGCS President

“Managers gain the compliance of their people; leaders gain the commitment of their people.” ...and... “People will do what you do light years before they will do what you ask.” Lead your teams to success this year!

Jon Lobenstine  
MAAGCS President

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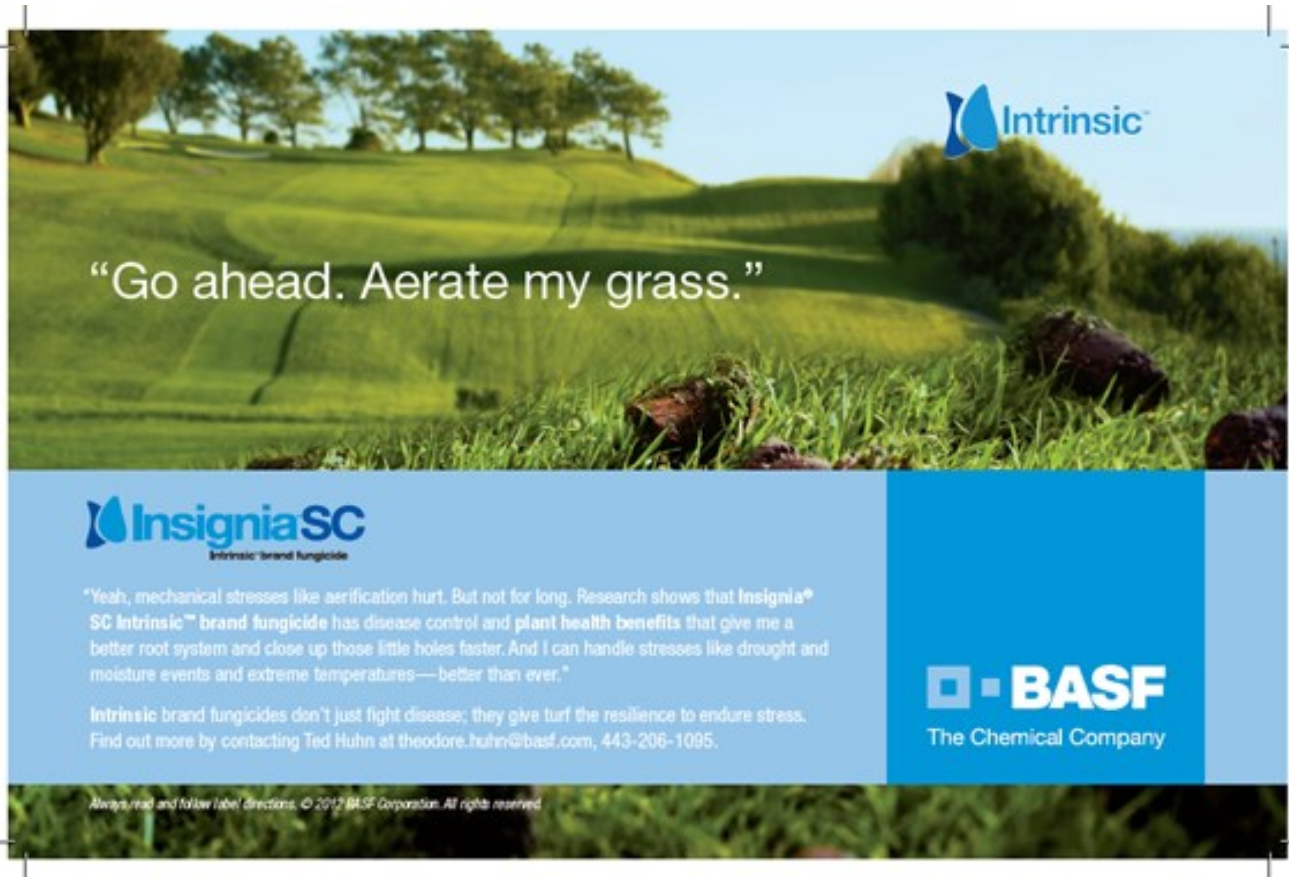
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## Upcoming Events

- April 22nd - Superintendent/Professional  
Norbeck Country Club
- May 10th - Shields Memorial Tournament  
Twin Shields Golf Club
- May 13th - Stewards of the Chesapeake  
Cattail Creek Country Club
- May 21st - Chesapeake Challenge  
Prospect Bay Country Club
- July - MAAGCS Family Picnic
- September 17—MAAGCS/GWGCSA joint event
- September 20-22 - Couples Night/Weekend  
Rocky Gap Resort and Casino
- October - Assistants Championship  
Hillendale Country Club
- November 5 - Annual Championship  
Manor Country Club



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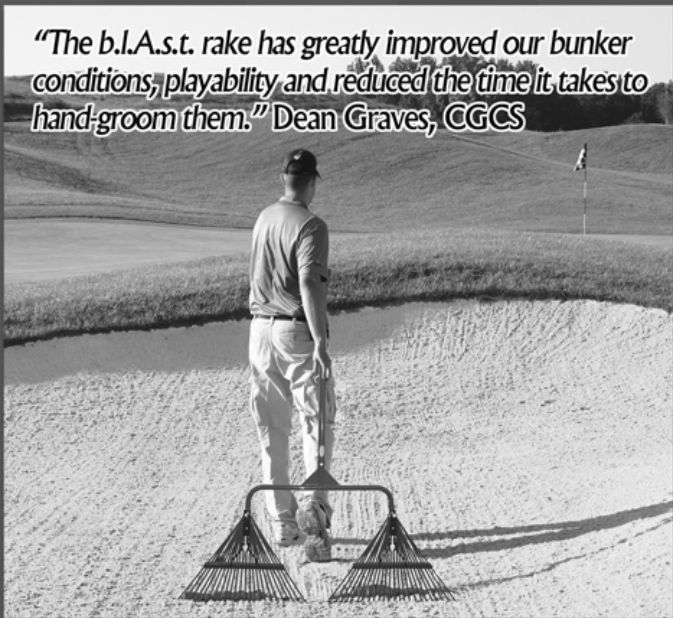
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## Government Relations Update

What's happening in the 113th Congress and executive branch, and how does it affect you and the golf industry? GCSAA adviser Robert Helland, a former Senate staff member and current adviser with the law firm Reed Smith, offers his policy and political analysis on sequestration and immigration, and the impact these topics are expected to have on the industry. Full article can be found on [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org)

### Sequestration has begun

The latest showdown in Congress was triggered by the March 1 deadline negotiated last December (Public Law 112-240), and as a result of a failure of Congress and the president to reach an alternative agreement by this deadline, federal agencies have started the process of programmatic cuts and fur-

loughs necessary to cut \$85 billion from the federal budget for the current fiscal year.

### What does this mean for golf?

No matter what, there will be a continued hunt for measures to reduce the federal debt, including those that impact golf courses. The industry should remain vigilant for any such measure. For example, the Obama administration proposed in its fiscal year 2013 budget to end the tax deduction golf courses receive when they donate a conservation easement on their courses, a proposal that would put \$593 million in the Treasury over 10 years. While this was not agreed to in the deal reached in December, it remains a possibility in each and every subsequent negotiation.

### Comprehensive

### immigration reform

Both Congress and the president have an incentive to reform the nation's immigration laws. The president wants this as part of his record of achievements for his second term. Republicans in Congress need this to address a lack of support among Latinos.

This is going to be a massive bill that will likely include a number of measures, including greater funds for border security, greater background checks by employers, and more visas for foreign workers coming to the United States. But the biggest issue by far will be what to do with the estimated 12 million people who now live in the United States illegally.

The amnesty question: The outlines of the coming immigration debate have been set, but

now lawmakers must hunker down and write legislation — and that could be a long process. There may not be movement on any of the ideas pre-

**“there will be a continued hunt for measures to reduce the federal debt, including those that impact golf**

sented until mid-March, the deadline that the eight senators who signed onto immigration reform principles have set to deliver a bill. However, many members of Congress opposed prior measures beyond those

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## Government Relations Update continued

that improved border security, as there is no pressure for any attempt at legalization. They will be an obstacle to any comprehensive plan.

### What does this mean for golf?

Everything mentioned above could affect golf. For examples, in exchange for an agreement on amnesty, some members in Congress might want to strengthen the E-Verify program, which confirms the validity of work documents submitted by new hires.

Right now, all federal agencies and companies that win a federal contract of more than \$100,000 and subcontractors with contracts of greater than \$3,000 must use E-verify for the newly hired. For all other private employers and employees, there is no requirement on the federal level that they participate in E-Verify, although a few states require it. That could change if an immigration reform measure is enacted into law during the 113th Congress. In addition, another immigration-related measure that could change is the number of visas allowed under the H-2B visa program, which helps the golf

industry by providing workers for jobs that normally are unfilled. Currently, the number of available H-2B visas is capped at 66,000, with 33,000 allocated in the first half of the fiscal year (Oct.1 to March 31), and 33,000 allocated in the second half (April 1 to Sept.30). When immigration reform was considered in 2005, there was a proposal to include a raise in the cap. Unfortunately, this died with the overall reform measure, but there would be a chance to address temporary worker visas again in the 113th Congress.

### Helping to advance GCSAA's interest on the federal level

Working together, GCSAA and Reed Smith will get before members of Congress and their staff, both early and often, to let them know:

- GCSAA members are employers working to meet a payroll
- GCSAA members are stewards of the environment
- Golf is an economic engine for the country generating tax revenue and creating millions of jobs

We work together to identify which decision-makers are most likely to have the biggest impact on the industry. Then, we make sure that those people know the facts. In Congress, this may mean meeting with members of the Senate Finance Committee when they draft legislation that helps employers recover from a natural disaster to ensure that golf course owners are included. But more in-

creasingly, in a grid-locked Congress it means also working with the unelected persons at the federal agency level who are responsible for the environmental or labor regulations that affect golf. All these people can have as much or more impact on a golf course's operations as those who use them.



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## February Education Seminar Review

The Annual Mid Atlantic Education Seminar is the single largest, most comprehensive, and well respected education seminar our association holds annually. This year's Annual Mid Atlantic Education Seminar once again turned out to be a huge success. We had a total of 165 in attendance, 68 received MD pesticide re-certification, 3 in WV and 7 in VA.

The day included an impressive range of speakers from the industry including Steve McDonald from Turfgrass Disease Solutions, Dr. Tom Watschke from Penn State,

Jay Nalls from MAAGCS Government Relations, Joel Simmons from Earthworks, Steve Keating from Toro and Michael Gildea from Chevy Chase Club. The programming covered areas of our profession from leadership and personal management, soil balancing, sustainable perennial landscaping, rough management and poa/bentgrass greens maintenance in the Mid Atlantic. Hopefully you found our line up of speakers exciting and dynamic and were able to take something from each session back to your facility and incorporate into your program.

We would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank our title sponsor, Turf Equipment and Supply as well as Platinum sponsor BASF, Gold sponsor Genesis, Silver Sponsors Bayer and Horizon, and Bronze sponsors Newsom Seed, Plant Food and Turf Trade. Without their help and support our success would not be possible.

Steve Evans and I are currently working on securing a date for next year's Annual Education Seminar. We would like to target topics that currently challenge our members in our difficult and ever changing

region. Please feel free to email me directly at [stephen-britton@pgatourtpc.com](mailto:stephen-britton@pgatourtpc.com) if there is a topic or a speaker you would like to see added to the seminar lineup for next year. It is my hope that you will be able to attend the 2014 Annual Education Seminar and I look forward to seeing all of you personally.

- Stephen Britton  
Education Chair



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## Turf Terps Impress in San Diego



The 2013 Collegiate Turf Bowl team and coaches pictured with their checks. Left to Right: Justin Patenaude, Scott Hosier, Brent Waite, Brian Hogan, Dr. Kevin Mathias (coach), Trey Profili, Josh Malnik, Steve Brew, Bryan Shepherd, Brian Dearstine, R.J. Crow, Ryan Higgins, Matt Park, and Alex Steinman (coach)

Students from the University of Maryland's Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) and the Plant Science and Landscape Architecture Department (PSLA) set a school record in placing three teams in top spots (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>) at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Collegiate Turf Bowl in San Diego, CA on February 7, 2013. There were a total of 68 teams competing in this year's Turf Bowl and it is the first time UMD placed two teams in the top 5. Also noteworthy is that they were able to place above perennial power, Iowa State who placed 5<sup>th</sup>. The University of Massachusetts and the University of Arkansas placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. Maryland's 3<sup>rd</sup> place team consisted of veterans Bryan Shepherd (IAA), Josh Malnik (IAA), R.J. Crow (IAA) and first year student Ryan Higgins (PSLA). The 4<sup>th</sup> place team had two new members in Brian Hogan (IAA) and Brent Waite (IAA) and were anchored by veterans Justin Patenaude (IAA) and

Scot Hosier (IAA). The 11<sup>th</sup> place team was just shy by 2 points from being a top 10 team and was led by Brian Dearstine (IAA) and Matt Park (IAA) working with first year competitors Steve Brew (IAA) and Trey Profili (PSLA).

The Collegiate Turf Bowl covers an array of different subject areas and a case study. Students must be able to

identify turfgrasses, insects, diseases, weeds and different types of soil based on texture differences.

They are also tested on personnel and business management related topics, IPM programs relating to pest control strategies and the basic concepts of turfgrass growth, and cultural practices related to golf turf management. In addition to

the Turf Bowl students attended educational talks, visited with vendors in the Trade Show, networked with alumni and golf turf professionals and were also able to enjoy a warm and sunny Southern California in February.



Students take time to visit the Trade Show at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA. From left to right: Steve Brew, Brent Waite, Brian Hogan, Trey Profili, Ryan Higgins, and Alex Steinman (coach)

## Superintendent/Assistant - Hampshire Greens

The first MAAGCS golf event of the 2013 season, the Superintendent-Assistant Tournament, was held on Wednesday, March 20, at Hampshire Greens Golf Course.

MAAGCS wishes to thank our generous supporters for the event. They include: **Platinum Sponsor** Fisher & Son, **Gold Sponsor** BASF and Horizon **Silver Sponsors** Agrium Advanced, Bayer, Collins Wharf Sod, Davisson Golf, Finch Services/John Deere Landscapes, Floratine of MD, Genesis, Helena, Landscape Supply, Oakwood Sod and Syngenta **Bronze Sponsors** Harrell's, Dow AgroSciences, Murray Sod, Wadsworth Golf Construction Company Winfield Solutions **Hole in One Sponsor** Sports Aggregates.

Host Superintendent, Teddy Blauvelt and his staff had the course in fine playing condition considering the cool wet spring we have had in the Mid Atlantic. The weather cooperated with sunny conditions and the 50 degree temperatures were enjoyed by the 40 members in

attendance. After a casual lunch, the two man teams were on the golf course for a noon shotgun start. The greens were rolling fast and smooth and the course conditions challenged our rusty golf skills.

The Championship Flight consisted of 11 Superintendent-Assistant teams. Steve Sweiderk and Mark Allman were the low gross winners. 2<sup>nd</sup> low gross

was the team of Galen Evans and Pat Mather. Teddy Blauvelt and Steve Evans were the low net winners. 2<sup>nd</sup> low net was the team of Jon Lobenstine and Eric Monnig.

The Open Flight of 9 teams consisted of Affiliate Members and other Superintendents and Assistants. Andrew Harrison and Rob Larsen were the low gross winners. Chris Fernandes

and Ryland Chapman were the low net winners.

Golf was followed by a very social awards party with hors d'oeuvres and cool libations that gave the members a chance to network and catch up on news and events in our organization. Thank you to all in attendance and we hope to see everyone at our next event at Norbeck CC.  
- Brandon Collins, Golf Chair



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## Golf Industry Show Wrap up

2013 was another great year to be able to attend the Golf Industry Show and Education Conference. San Diego represented what GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans called the “new normal”. 1,500 less people and 1,000 less qualified buyers were in San Diego in comparison to Las Vegas. The trade show square footage was similar but about two acres less than when the show was at its peak in 2008 in Orlando where 20,000 people were in attendance. San Diego saw 13,000 people walk through the doors but still filled 4,560 seminar seats.

The more intimate setting meant it was easier to get around the trade show floor. The overall smaller size of the show also means that the GIS is able to rotate through some more interesting venues like Vegas and San Antonio.

The trade show floor was filled with the usual wide variety of vendors. Many different buying incentives were active and depending on what you were looking for, the savings could have easily paid for the cost of the trip.

The GIS has long been an outstanding networking opportunity. This year we again had well over 100 people at the hospitality event that combined members from MAAGCS, ESAGCS and VGCSA. Thanks to BASF, Horizon and Finch as well as all our other supporting sponsors for keeping this event free.

Before the GIS kicked off, the National Championship and Golf Classic hosted over 400 people from across the country for three days of great camaraderie and golf. The MAAGCS fielded three teams of 5, the most out of any association that participated in the Golf Classic. The main attraction this year was the expansive Torrey Pines Golf Club which was absolutely breath taking.

### Some notable finishes:

Scott Furlong and Mike King - 1st Net - Four ball - III

Mike King - 5th Net Classic IV  
Brandon Collins - 4th Gross Classic IV

John Burke, Scott Furlong, Corey Haney, Mike King, Mike Mueller - 5th out of 34 teams in Team Competition



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The MAAGCS fielded the most teams and took home the most hardware at the National Championship and Golf Classic in La Jolla.

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### First Annual Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington Ski Resort

The Vermont GCSA hosted the first annual "Nor'easter Ski Day" on February 28, 2013 at the Killington Ski Resort in Killington, VT. Golf course superintendents and industry representatives, along with their families came together for a day of camaraderie, powder skiing and competition on the slopes of Vermont. In 1993 members of the Vermont GCSA and the Northeastern GCSA began a friendly rivalry to be held on the slopes of Vermont's ski areas each year. This year, members of both associations decided to open up the event to all the GCS associations throughout the Northeastern US and Canada.

The turnout was fantastic for the inaugural event as over 100 members from the Northeast made the trek to Killington for the day's festivities. The weather gods blessed the event

with 12-14 inches of new snow the night before so the skiing was superb! Ironically enough the giant slalom race had to be canceled due to the heavy snowfall the night before. Conditions were deemed unsafe on the course and all racing was halted for the day including the Killington Mountain School program.

That did not stop anyone from having a great day in the fresh powder. The 2013 trophies will be stored until next year's event, so start making plans to join us in 2014! After a great day on the slopes, attendees were treated to an outstanding Après Ski party at the Wobbly Barn on the Killington access road. Killington was very gracious in hosting the group by providing affordable pricing on lodging and highly discounted lift tickets for those who stayed and skied through the week-

end! The Planning Committee, after seeing what a great success the day was, is already working on plans for the 2014 Nor'easter Ski Day. Watch your emails this fall for registration information! The combined ski day is a great way for the golf industry to get together in the off-season, enjoy the outdoors and to build on the unique camaraderie that the industry presents. The ski race will be a team event in which each association fields at least a 6-man team with prizes for individual accomplishments as well as the coveted team "Nor'easter Cup" which was custom built by local superintendents.

This year's Nor'easter Ski Day also served as a fundraising event for fellow superintendent Matt Dutremble of Ardsley C.C. Matt was seriously

injured after Hurricane Sandy while cleaning up storm damaged trees on his golf course. Matt is recovering and the funds raised by the attendees will help him and his family get through these difficult times.

The Nor'easter Ski Day was made great, because of the overwhelming support of its sponsors! We would like to thank the following companies for their help in making this event a huge success; Harrell's, Agrium Advanced Technologies, Syngenta, Atlantic Golf & Turf, N.E. Specialty Soils, Valent, Jacobsen, Toro, Sportscapes, Yamaha, Bayer, MTE, Sipcam, Arysta Life Science, Reliable Racing, Grassland Equipment, Fertl Soil, BASF as well as the support of the VTGCSA and NEGCSA.

Hope to see you next winter on the slopes!!!

- Andy Drohen-Agrium



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New Website Launch!

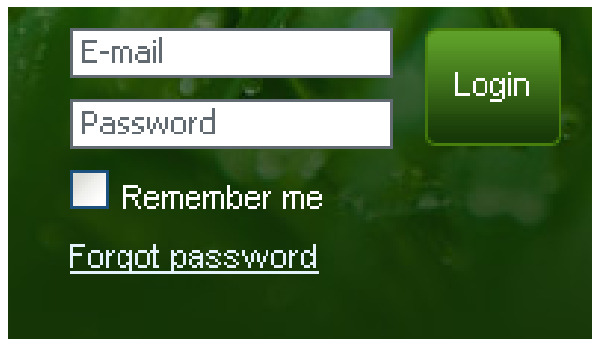
Over the past few months we have been working hard to upgrade our website and email format. Our goal is to have a more accessible, easy to use, clean and consistent presentation for our members.

Our new software enables us to schedule emails which will help us be conscious about filling up your inbox with a barrage of MAAGCS info. Event announcement emails will now feature a REGISTER ONLINE link that allows you to do just that. You can either pay with your credit card online or print out the invoice from your confirmation email and submit that for payment.

The new website will enable you to track your account status with event registrations and membership renewals. It has an active calendar and a searchable member directory. It also has important info like Rounds for Research resources, member benefits info, job referrals, sponsorship info and BOD contact info.

To Login to the new website, simply click “Forgot Password” at the bottom left of the home page and follow the instructions from there. Use your email that is already registered with MAAGCS and make yourself a password.

We will continue to add more to the website including member submitted pictures as time rolls on. Our main goal now is to utilize the automation feature for event registration. This makes it easier for us to organize an event, and should make it easier for members to submit payment for an event. If you come across any trouble or have not been getting MAAGCS emails, contact Chris Harriman at chsharriman@gmail.com.



Turfgrass Matters is published 4 times annually and is available online at maagcs.org