

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

GCSAA

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

1

TURFGRASS MATTERS JUNE 2014



National Golf Day Highlights Inside

MAAGCS Couples Night Out

Spirit Cruise

Friday, September 19th, 2014

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Cruise 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

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Mike Barrett

Summer has arrived and the past few weeks have provided perfect weather to generate revenue for our facilities. The long and snowy winter followed by a cool and wet spring, resulted in reduced rounds at many facilities in our area and across the country. Overall, the golf industry appears to have turned the corner and continues to recover from a tough few years. At my club we are working hard to grow our Junior Golf Program and the PGA of America continues to promote "Get Golf Ready". Get Golf Ready is a program that offers new ambitious players five lessons for \$99 in the hopes of taking the fear and intimidation out of the sport. According to Ted Bishop, PGA President, 80% of participants that complete the program, stay in the game. This is a great statistic for the future of our industry.

Once again, MAAGCS members headed to Capital Hill for National Golf Day on May 21st. I would like to extend a special thanks to Jon Lobenstine, Ted Blauvelt, Jay Nalls, Chris Harriman, Ryan Kraushofer and Galen Evans for taking time out of their busy schedules to represent our industry. The We Are Golf coalition is comprised of golf's leading organizations, including leaders from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (CGSAA), Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA), PGA Tour, U.S. Golf Manufacturers Council, the PGA of America, United States Golf Association (USGA), and the World Golf Foundation. The purpose of National Golf Day is to discuss golf's economic, environmental, charitable and fitness benefits to Congressional, executive branch and agency leaders. Our industry is responsible for \$70 Billion in revenue and employs over 2 Million people. To learn more about We Are Golf, visit them at: www.wearegolf.org

Now that summer has officially arrived and we are preparing to dig in over the next few months to protect our courses from heat, disease, insects and anything else that may come our way, I want to encourage everyone to take care of what's really important first, You and your families. Remember to use sun block regularly and encourage your staff as well. Keep yourselves hydrated on hot days and make sure you have a nice place to cool down from time to time. Thoroughly read labels, double check rates and make sure you are wearing proper safety equipment. Set aside some time each week for your families, trust me, your courses will be there when you get back. This year, I have put a plan in place to make sure I spend some quality time with my family each week by designating Sunday evenings to picking crabs in our garage. I am not originally from Maryland, however, I have learned to love crabs. A few weeks ago as we were sitting in my garage, I realized that crabs are great, but it's the sitting around and enjoying each other's company that makes them that much sweeter. This year, if you need me on a Sunday afternoon, you can find me in my garage with my wife, Amy and two daughters, Megan and Katie picking crabs and catching up with each other.

I would like to close with a special shout out to all those who have enjoyed a graduation this month. Graduation is a great accomplishment for the student and also for those who have worked so hard to ensure their students have the tools and guidance necessary to achieve this goal. Though my family didn't celebrate any major graduations this year, my daughter, Megan, my niece, Sara and my nephew, Tommy all graduated from 8th grade and will be headed to High School next year. I am very proud of them and excited for them to experience the next phase of their education. For everyone who celebrated a graduation, Congratulations on a job well done!

WE ARE GOLF. That is the sentiment that echoed throughout Capitol Hill on Wednesday as members of the [We Are Golf](#) coalition gathered in support of the game we all love. Included in the day's activities were meetings with congressmen and senators (and/or their staffers), golf exhibits on display in the Canon House building, and media activity that included an appearance by Jack Nicklaus. What a great way to spread the good word about golf's value apart from its intrinsic entertainment advantages.

So what was discussed in our meetings with America's legislators? Well, how about the direct economic impact of golf across the U.S.? It's almost 70 BILLION dollars per year. Or how about the fact that golf employs 2 million American people? Another great example is charitable initiatives. Golf donates more to charity (almost 4 BILLION dollars annually) than the NFL, NHL and MLB combined. Yes, that's right, COMBINED. The list goes on. How about our environmental stewardship and value as community green spaces? Or the value of golf for physical activity - 1,300 calories are burned playing 18 holes, and that's if you take a cart! Do yourself and your industry a favor and commit these stats to memory for the next time you encounter a cynical golf critic.

Specific to GCSAA's agenda during

the day's meetings, we spoke to our lawmakers about the proposed language changes to Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), found within the Clean Water Act. To summarize, the proposed changes are very vague in language and open to interpretation. If the changes are approved, this could mean the EPA has jurisdiction over an area that has flowing water at any point throughout the year. In other words, if you get a 3-inch rain storm, and have runoff flowing across 7 fairway, that then becomes the EPA's jurisdiction. So what does that mean? It means costly permits and susceptibility to huge fines - up to \$37,000 per day. We believe the EPA is overstepping its boundaries with these suggested amendments, and we want to stop it. To learn more and request an extension to the comment period for these proposed changes, please visit [GCSAA's Government Relations portal](#). Believe me, this is a BIG deal, and we all need to keep an eye on this issue.

All in all, I would say National Golf Day was a great success. This initiative speaks to advocacy in the highest light, and I believe we can take this model and use it on a state level. Some have already started to do so, and those of us who haven't should be excited to follow their lead. For more about the National Golf Day initiative, the day's activities, or about

the We Are Golf Coalition, please check out the website referenced above. For relevant twitter feed, check out [#NGD14](#).

Special thanks to GCSAA's government relations team led by Chava McKeel, who did so much to make this day happen, including setting up dozens of meetings with legislator's offices. Likewise, I'd like to thank my trusty fellas from the [Mid-Atlantic GCSA](#), who manned an extensive turfgrass exhibit throughout the day, complete with different types of sod, irrigation equipment, soil probes and profilers, and even a digital prism to get a close up look at the green-height bentgrass. Lastly, thanks to all the people who made the day possible and all who participated. After all, WE ARE GOLF!

Below from Left to Right:: JD Dockstader (GCSAA), Matt Shatto (GCSAA) and Chase Rogan



National Golf Day

What a tremendous experience that was afforded to the MAAGCS delegation at National Golf Day! Serving this year at the event with me as GCSAA ambassadors on Capitol Hill were: Chris Harriman (Cattail Creek CC), Jay Nalls (Norbeck CC), Ryan Kraushofer (Westminster National GC), Teddy Blauvelt (Hampshire Greens GC), and Galen Evans (Laytonsville GC).

The 4:00 a.m. alarm clock for us was a “normal” beginning to a typical weekday. But instead of going to our courses, we assembled at Norbeck Country Club and began piling a whole host of golf maintenance supplies into Ryan’s vehicle. So the 6 of us squeezed in alongside bent, bermuda, and tall fescue sod, putting green hex plugs, gadgets like a digital macroscope, infrared thermometer, light meter, moisture meter, soil profilers, laptops, iPads, aeration tines, sprinkler head, stimp-meter, Ziploc bags of grass seeds, irrigation map, samples of records like soil and water tests, spray sheets, and the list goes on!

So we head around the beltway towards an off-site security checkpoint that checks trucks before they’re allowed to make deliveries to Capitol Hill. Bomb-sniffing dog, ID checks

(following a background check we had to go through in advance), lots of waiting (we weren’t on their list of expected guests!), until we found out this all wasn’t necessary this year like it had been the previous 3 years we’ve gone down. So we finally arrive at the Cannon Congressional Office Building security checkpoint, and after a flurry of emails and calls the evening before and morning of, and quite a bit of wondering if we were going to actually get into this place, the Capitol Police officer comes up to the vehicle and addresses Ryan by name. He’s been expecting us. And we’re all relieved!

With no access to a loading dock like at the Rayburn building in years past, we made our way to a back parking lot, and then there’s a hilarious scene of 6 superintendents walking up the street lugging all these devices and stuff no one has ever seen before! We finally make it up to the Caucus

Room and get our display set up just in time for the group We Are Golf photo on the Capitol Steps, and thus our day began! Immediately, the room was filled for the day’s kickoff with a message from Steve Mona, World Golf Foundation CEO, and Jack Nicklaus. Throughout the day, it was very rewarding to tell our story to people who had no idea about what really goes in to maintaining a golf course.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Below: Our display of different types of grasses and seed had to be one of the biggest hits of the day!





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We interacted mostly with congressional staffers as well as some curious kids from the First Tee program who were in attendance, but also with a few folks who just happened to be touring the building or there for other meetings. The First Tee kids were especially intrigued with using the regular macroscope and also the digital one connected to a laptop to see things like grains of sand appear so big!

All in all, we showed our students for the day how we save water, how we keep grass healthy, why we use some of the tools we do for scouting disease or assessing growing environments, and were able to also discuss how a lot of these things relate to maintaining our valuable green space as a place that wildlife can thrive. We're not just the people that mow the grass! It was a great opportunity to help spread the good word about what we do since negative stereotypes are still so pervasive outside our industry. And it was certainly a learning experience for us as well as our students. GCSAA TV video here: <http://goo.gl/Fv4EeX>. Did you know that golf contributes nearly \$70 billion to the U.S. economy, generates nearly \$4 billion annually for charities, and supports 2 million jobs?



Above: Some of the tools that we had to curry in with us and put through an x-ray machine include : Soil Probes, Cup Cutter, Moisture Meter, Aerification Tines and more...

Below: One of the Highlights of the day was meeting Jack Nicklaus



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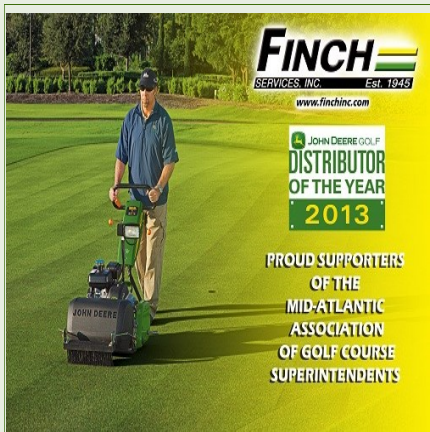
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2014 Shields Tournament Host a Full Field Dr. Kevin Mathias

After a very cold, cold winter golfers came out of hibernation just like the infamous brown marmorated stink bugs and appeared at Glenn Dale Golf Club for the 35th Annual Shields Memorial on May 9th. The day started with overcast conditions but by noon the sun was out and a field of 136 golfers were trying to regain their golf (s)wings on this well-conditioned course.



The MAAGCS team poses behind the Collegiate Turf Bowl Trophy and the STMA Student Challenge Trophy at the 2014 Shields Memorial. Players from left to right are Chris Fernandes (Northwest Golf Course), Chris Fauble (Locust Hill Golf Club), Chris Sandels (Chevy Chase Club), Jon Lobenstine (Montgomery County Golf) Teddy Blauvelt (Hampshire Greens), and Ryan Kraushofer (Westminster National Golf Club). Ryan Kraushofer's shorts were intentionally cropped to reduce eye strain.

This was a special day since both the Collegiate Turf Bowl Trophy and the STMA Student Challenge Trophy were on display for golfers and alumni to admire. This was the first time that any UMD Turfgrass teams were able to win both national championships! The Turf Terps also known as the "Fab Four" won the 2014 STMA Student Challenge and after 15 years of competition finally won the 20th Collegiate Turf Bowl competition. This accomplishment would not have been possible without alumni, industry, and the Shields families' support of this benefit tournament

Over \$14,000 was raised at this year's tournament and the proceeds not only support student travel to national and regional meetings and competitions but also supports student scholarships. I am extremely proud of how the Shields Endowment has grown and now generates over \$10,000 annually for student scholarships at the University of Maryland's Institute of Applied Agriculture. Since 1991 a total of 103 Shields Scholarships have been awarded to deserving students majoring in our Golf Turf program.

First Place Team



Above From Left to Right: Adam Stottlemeyer, Eric David, Bernie Beavan, Darren Carper, Ed Walker, & George Long. Below: Students from the I.A.A. spent the morning setting up for the tournament.



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There are several items that are in focus for government relations this season. The first is the potential pesticide ban for Montgomery County, MD. The second is our starting work on the BMP program for MAAGCS. Finally, we are also working with the MDA on reporting requirements for fertilizer usage.

Today several industry members, including Dean Graves from Chevy Chase CC will be meeting with Mr. Leventhal to discuss why we as an association do not support the proposed pesticide ban for Montgomery County. Currently golf courses are exempt in the language for the bill, however it is unclear if this includes clubhouse grounds, tennis facilities, pool grounds, etc. So you may be able to keep weeds out of your fairways, tees, and roughs, but you cannot treat to protect your lawns around your buildings. The GCSAA is passionate about the "turf industry" sticking together, and so is the MAAGCS. We will continue to speak out against this bill, discussing the environmental benefits of our industry, instead of leaving the rest of the turf industry without our support.

Chase Rogan recently sent us information about a GCSAA grant available for developing BMP programs. Our BMP committee is meeting soon to discuss how to best begin the application process for this grant. Two organizations will be given \$10,000 to work on BMPs. This looks like a great way to get started! The deadline for the application is August 31st, so the

MAAGCS is well ahead of the ball game. Chase, thanks for the heads up!

Recently Dean Graves, Mark Schlossberg, Rick Lanore and I met with officials in the MDA to go over the reporting requirements for the Fertilizer Use Act. By next month we should see our first "beta test" for the reporting requirements. This will give us the opportunity to iron out any problems our members may have in reporting fertilizer usage, and also give us opportunity to educate our members on how to report annual usage. The MAAGCS BOD looks forward to this opportunity to serve our membership!

On a personal note, two days ago I had a young lady knock at my door asking for support for the "Clean Water Act". She spoke about how only 50% of our drinking water was protected from pollutants, and wouldn't I like to make that 100%? I told her that as a professional in the agriculture industry, I would not support this bill. It isn't fair to have less than 1% of the population

feed 99% of the population, manage important green space, care for our yards and parks, etc. and then turn around and restrict our ability to do it well in an environmentally responsible manner. She responded that anyone in the agriculture industry can receive a license to "pollute", and if approved, they could apply the requested products. I can only imagine what response the public would have to our industry applying for "licenses to pollute!"

Jay Nalls

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The First Annual MAAGCS Invitational was held at Crofton Country Club in April. The golf course was in excellent condition despite the long winter, excessive rain, and a rescheduled event. The Association would like to thank Andrew Pudester and the entire staff of Crofton for their work in preparing the event.

The tournament paired a Mid-Atlantic Superintendent with a partner of their choosing in a better ball format. The event was very well received as it gave a chance for people outside of our profession the chance to experience the camaraderie at our

meetings. The gross competition event was won by Chris Fernandes and partner Matt Hill after matching cards with the strong team of John and Jay Newcomb. The net champion was the team of Andrew Harrison and Rob Larson.

The May meeting took place at Queenstown Harbor in the Chesapeake Challenge, or “War on the Shore” as it is also known. We could not have asked for better weather or venue for this annual Ryder Cup style, better ball match between the MAAGCS against the ESAGCS. The overall competition came down to the last few matches

of the day but in the end, the Eastern Shore team retained their title by a final score of 9-7.

The MAAGCS would like to congratulate all of the competitors in both of these events for their efforts and we look forward to seeing everyone at the Superintendent/Pro Championship at the Country Club at Woodmore and June 23rd.

Most importantly we would like to thank all of our sponsors for these meetings. Without their support, these events would not be possible.

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Falls Road Golf Course	Potomac, MD
Westminster National G.C.	Westminster, MD
Oakmont Green Golf Course	Hampstead, MD
Norbeck Country Club	Rockville, MD
Hickory Heights Golf Course	Spring Grove, PA
Eagles Crossing Golf Course	Carlisle, PA
North Hills Country Club	North Hills, PA

Auction Dates:

June 9-22, 2014

August 1-10, 2014

Rounds4research.com



Proceeds from rounds sold will be used to support critical turfgrass research and education.

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Mid-Atlantic Chapter GCSAA

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

TURFGRASS MATTERS

“The Mid-Atlantic GCSA is dedicated to providing value to members through programs and services that enhance our profession”

The Mid-Atlantic GCSA Chapter and Members will be consistently recognized as:

- Supportive of growing the game
- Supportive of turfgrass research and the golf course management profession
- A strong allied golf organization partner
- Leaders in environmental stewardship
- Promoting government relations and advocacy efforts

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Corey Landon

@psuyoungsuper

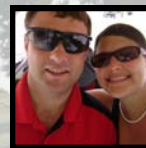
The Country Club at Woodmore



Matt Burton

@LB_Turf

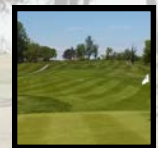
Little Bennett Golf Course



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Chris Fernandes

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Northwest Golf Course

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