

Education Seminar Recap

On February 26th, MAAGCS held our Annual Education Seminar at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, MD.

Over 160 superintendents, assistants, landscapers, vendors, educators, and students attended the event which was once again the largest crowd in the Education Seminar's history. The day was a huge success with GCSAA Education Points provided to everyone and over half of the attendees getting recertified for their pesticide licenses.

The day began with a Year-in-Review by Darin Bevard of the USGA. Darin always provides an enlightening presentation, looking back on the trials and tribulations of the previous year. This year it was nice to not see any local golf courses in the death and disease photos!

The next presentation by Dr. Beth Guertal of Auburn University focused on phosphorus fertilization and water quality. After hearing about her research, it seems like everyone should reconsider how much phosphorus they apply, even when soil tests say you are deficient.

Dr. Shawn Askew of Virginia Tech followed after the morning coffee break to give his thoughts on PoaCure and Pylex. Dr. Askew has seen great things with both of these products and recommends that everyone consider adding them to their arsenal to combat Poa Annua and Goosegrass.

Before lunch we heard from Dr. Kevin Mathias from the

University of Maryland who was joined by Joe Haskins and Marlin Ewing Jr. to talk about control of Annual Bluegrass Weevils. Everyone has seen varying levels of success in controlling this pest. The real take-away from this talk was that if you aren't looking back at your previous year and making alterations in your plan for the future, there is a good chance that you will get burned by this pest.

After lunch we talked technology with Bill Brown, CGCS, and CEO of Turf Republic. Bill shared with everyone some of the best protection for our smart devices and some apps that are very beneficial to superintendents.

The last presentation of the day followed our famous ice cream break. Kurt and Eric Wittman, the owners and operators of Terra Firma Plant Care, provided insight on how to solve stubborn landscape issues with proper plant selections and using Integrated Pest Management.

The day was made possible by the terrific support of all of our sponsors, namely Turf Equipment and Supply, who title sponsored the event again this year. Turf Equipment and Supply has been a great asset to the MAAGCS and the value they place on continuing education is top notch. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year at this event as MAAGCS looks to continue to provide some of the best continuing education opportunities in the area to all of our members!

