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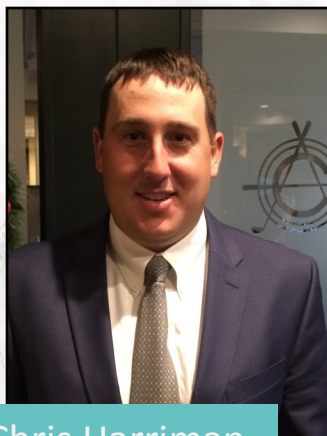


The Rounds 4 Research program was designed to address a critical shortage in turfgrass research funding by auctioning donated rounds of golf online.

The program is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Rounds 4 Research allows GCSAA chapters and turfgrass foundations to participate as fundraising partners with the vast majority of proceeds going back to those organizations.

Please go to www.rounds4research.com to learn more about the program and how to donate.



Chris Harriman

Greetings everyone. I hope you are enjoying spring; it's the best time of the year in my opinion. You don't need much persuasion to get the grass to grow and you can almost hear roots digging deeper. We beat up the turf, it asks for more and we look like we have all the answers.

I for the most part think I have all the answers all the time. It's why I love this profession, it is based in science and people management, and if I can't figure out what's wrong, a quick phone call to someone in my network gets me the help I need. My success is not solely based on how a steak tastes or if I fixed someone's "front rower" duck hook.

This association stuff is hard however. Mainly, figuring out how to get our members to participate during the season. For 2015 the Board (including David Norman) has worked hard and brought in more than 30% more partnership revenue than ever before. This means vendors really want to support us as Superintendents and they want Superintendents to know that they support the MAAGCS. But they want to find value in their partnership and ultimately see some kind of return on investment.

This means that Superintendents need to show up at events. There are endless opportunities at our events to network with a variety of industry professionals, take a breather from looking at the same plot of land, while providing a learning experience for your support staff to grow as decision makers. Most importantly, you go to support your own association and to thank the vendors who have committed to supporting

you.

What is the point of all this circular support stuff? The point is that we as an association have to invest in entities that are going to help us do our jobs not just better, but at all. We have to invest in lobbyists that stand up to the government to educate and advocate for our contribution to creating a sustainable environment. We need quality university research that helps make our jobs easier and bolsters our benefit to the environment. The MAAGCS has to do more for our local industry. We cannot do that without participation from our members and the support from our partners. Get in the game and help us make our industry better.

In closing, the Mid-Atlantic AGCS is here to help serve you better, while continuing to develop our programs to improve your experience and value of our association.



L-R: Jeff Fisher (Helena), Chris Harriman (Cattail Creek), Matt Harvey (Cattail Creek), David Norman (MAAGCS Chapter Executive)

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GCSAA Launches Marketing Campaign

GCSAA is launching an exciting new outreach campaign, hoping to stir golfer appreciation for the great work of our members. By utilizing TV, radio, print, and internet media, GCSAA's new "thank a superintendent" campaign aims at reaching the 25 million golfers who enjoy the fruits of our superintendents' labors.

The television spots (15 and 30 seconds long, respectively) are headlined by the Golden Bear, Mr. Jack Nicklaus, and feature other marquee names like Rory McIlroy, Rickie Fowler, Jordan Spieth, Matt Kuchar, Michelle Wie, and Nick Faldo. These big-name golfers have big-time influence, and GCSAA is using their testimonies to show the golf world why superintendents are a key component of the game's success and enjoyment. These ads will run on the Golf Channel throughout 2015 and you can check them out at <http://www.gcsaa.org/thankasuperintendent>.

The radio ads, similar to the TV ads, also feature Nicklaus and other brand-name golfers and will air on Sirius XM PGA Tour Radio (Sirius 208, XM 93) as well as local golf radio shows throughout the nation. Both TV and radio ads can be co-branded by GCSAA chapters and aired in their local markets. The radio spots can be heard on the same link provided above.

By tracking internet traffic on golf-related websites, these ads will take advantage of dynamic internet marketing to pinpoint golfers' web browsers and lure them in with a chance to win a trip to the 2015 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. When golfers view the ad, they are prompted to fill out a "thank your superintendent" form for their chance to win the trip to the PGA Championship. On the back end, GCSAA will then send that thank you note to the golfer's superintendent and the superintendent's employer. Pretty cool.



Chase Rogan

GCSAA Field Staff

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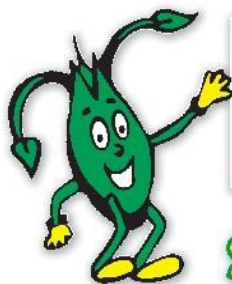


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The project is spear-headed by two new faces to the GCSAA team – Associate Director of marketing Russell Sypowicz, and Director of communications and media, Craig Smith. Both bring great experience to the GCSAA team, and look to continue making headway in future outreach and marketing initiatives.

In other news, Jenny Pagel-Guile is the new face of the GCSAA Certification Program, replacing recently retired Penny Mitchell. Jenny is working to help further develop and grow the CGCS program, and wants to hear member feedback in order to provide more directed services. 2014 saw 22 newly certified members, and 8 members have started the process in 2015. Please feel free to reach out to her directly for questions regarding the application process or eligibility at JPagel-Guile@gcsaa.org.



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Government Relations: Jay Nalls

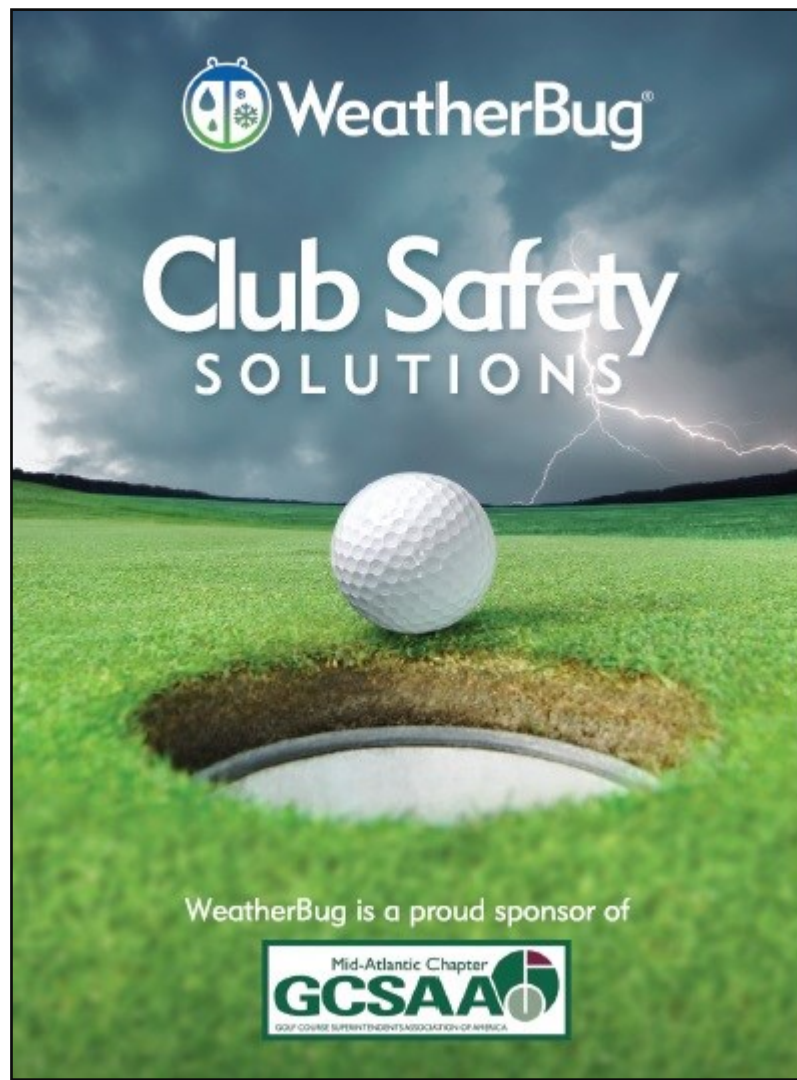
Pesticide usage is still a sensitive subject for the State of Maryland. We are still fighting Montgomery County Bill 52-14, which would create a ban on lawn turf pesticides. On March 16th, the first work session was held by the County Council Transportation and Environmental Committee. All in all the council members were not favorable to the turf industry. Craig Rice is our leading supporter, and he asked some great questions of the two panels present.

The Council received testimony from the Montgomery County Department of Environment (MC MDE), the MDA and the EPA on pesticide regulation, product testing and labeling. Dennis Howard from the MDA was very informative to the county council, and spoke in great detail of how the MDA regulates all licensed pesticide applicators. Dan Kenny from the EPA was an invaluable resource and spoke to how thorough the EPA's work is in approving and labeling pesticides for use. He gave great testimony about the levels of testing developed to keep our citizens safe, especially children.

The second panel consisted of doctors, with two doctors for the proponents, and Stuart Cohen against the bill. Stuart was very informative about how dosages are determined, and how carcinogen levels in pesticides are determined.

Another major issue pesticide use is facing is the ever present scrutiny on the usage of neonicotinoids by turf and agriculture. Neonicotinoid use is frequently cited as causing "colony collapse" in pollinating insects such as honey bees. Dean Graves found a great article that will be on the MAAGCS website, which determined neonicotinoids are not the sole cause of colony collapse. Neonicotinoids are an insecticide, and can kill populations of pollinators; however, they can be used safely without endangering our pollinator populations.

Last week, I had a great meeting with Dr. Frank Wong, to find out more on how to minimize potential neonicotinoid injury to pollinator populations. First and foremost, granular products are tremendously safer for pollinators than sprayable products. Second, removing flowering weeds (such as clover) from the turfgrass is extremely important. If there are no plants to attract pollinators in the first place, potential injury is reduced. Third, mow the turf before spraying to shorten the height of the turf they can be exposed to, and also to knock down any remaining flowers on weeds. Fourth, water lightly to knock any sprayable product off the leaves of the grass immediately after application. Though they will still fly through some of the turf, their contact with neonicotinoids will be greatly reduced by following four easy steps. Finally, if you do spray neonicotinoids, there are studies that show tank mixing DMI fungicides increases the toxicity of neonicotinoids to pollinators dramatically. Do not tank mix neonicotinoids with DMI's. These products should be sprayed separately, after the neonicotinoids have been watered off the turfgrass stand.



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GETTING TO KNOW



Tyler Bloom

Tyler Bloom is one of the newest members to the MAAGCS and to the Board of Directors as he took over as Golf Course Superintendent at Sparrows Point Country Club last July. He grew up in the coal region of northeast Pennsylvania, taking up the game of golf at age 6. During his high school summers, Tyler was an active grounds member at Berwick Golf Club. He took his passion for golf to Penn State University where he completed his four-year degree in the Turfgrass Science program.

Prior to taking his position at Sparrows Point Country Club in Dundalk, Maryland, Tyler spent three years as Assistant Superintendent at Sunnybrook Golf Club outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has been fortunate to work at four top 100 golf courses including Oakmont Country Club, Muirfield Village Golf Club, Southern Hills Country Club and Merion Golf Club.

Amongst the whirlwind of accepting his first Superintendent's position, Tyler married his wife, Jayme, in October 2014. Tyler and Jayme live in White Marsh, Maryland with their 1.5 year old chocolate Labrador, Hayley.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION?

To be relentless in pursuing new ways to improve membership experience, volunteer opportunities and overall awareness of our profession.

MAAGCS HAS STARTED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE, WHAT NEW THINGS SHOULD MEMBERS EXPECT?

Our goal is simply to provide up to date platforms with relevant information, events and integrate our members into the latest happenings locally and nationally.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED SO FAR ABOUT THE MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION?

The camaraderie and respect for each other is second to none in my opinion. Everyone I have met has been welcoming and offered to lend a hand in many situations. The support system in our chapter is second to none, and I am fortunate to have met many great people in my short time.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SPARROWS POINT COUNTRY CLUB?

I took the opportunity to put a stamp on a golf course rich with history and one of the most unique golf settings in Baltimore.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Balancing my expectations with the unpredictability of Mother Nature.

WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Getting to work with and lead high character people.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING MAAGCS SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Keeping golfers educated and informed of latest happenings and the evolving conditions of the golf course on a daily basis.

WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT IN THE MID-ATLANTIC?

Winter damage impact on *Poa annua* greens, and also cultural practices to improve newer bermudagrass varieties.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

Employed in the golf industry as either a Superintendent or a self-employed entrepreneur.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

It is cliché to say, but every Superintendent I have been fortunate enough to work for. Each one presented a very different perspective on the industry that has shaped me and our operation at Sparrows Point.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

The most challenging role in our profession. They are relied on to meet expectations of the Superintendent and Club, while continuing to acquire their own management philosophy.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THE ROLE OF THE MECHANIC?

Easily the most important role to the success, safety and efficiency of our operation.

YOU CAN FOLLOW TYLER BLOOM ON TWITTER @TBLOOM_SPCC OR CHECK OUT HIS BLOG UPDATES BY VISITING WWW.MAAGCS.ORG/MEMBER-BLOGS



MAAGCS SPRING EVENT REVIEW

Harriman~Harvey and Larsen Are Top Guns at Clay Shooting

Nearly 50 MAAGCS members turned out for the sporting clays event at Prince George's Skeet and Trap. When all range went silent, it was MAAGCS President Chris Harriman and his Assistant Matt Harvey of Cattail Creek claiming "Top Gun" honors in the Superintendent/Assistant Division. In the overall competition, Rob Larsen of John Deere Golf edged Harriman by a single point to take overall honors.

Helena Chemicals was the presenting sponsor, with Jeff Snyder welcoming shooters from all over the Old Line State. Snyder parlayed his good luck onto his winning five-man team, which included Harriman and Harvey, Mike Hutchison of Sports Aggregates and MAAGCS Chapter Executive David Norman. Second place in the team competition was Joe Haskins and Assistant Matt Minnich of Diamond Ridge/Woodlands, Bill Springirth of Clustered Spires and Matt Jones of Hillendale CC. Drew Prosa and Kenny Doerfler were second in the Superintendent/Assistant division.

Former MAAGCS member Rhys Arthur, CGCS of Shooting Star Sports ran the event as Prince George's top instructor, holding the world's highest certification level. Formerly, Arthur was superintendent at Indian Springs Country Club in Silver Spring, MD, before retiring to his shooting sport career.

The education event was presented by Tara Pepperman of Audubon International, based in New York. She encouraged members to get involved in the program, which focuses on wildlife habitats and water conservation.



Tara Pepperman—Audubon International

GCSAA Social Event at San Antonio brings together Associations

The GCSAA Social Event in San Antonio was well attended with over 200 industry professionals kicking back for some food and drinks to cap a great week of education and events in early February. Our association joined forces with the Virginia GCSA and Eastern Shore AGCS to provide a fun, casual and relaxing atmosphere.

The event was held at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio, which provided great accommodations for our membership. Thank you again to all of our sponsors who help facilitate this great social event for our members. All of your hard work and support truly bring this event together and make it a once a year special occasion.



Darren Davis and Dean Graves, CGCS catching up



Attendees listen in to Chris Harriman give the President's Speech

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All-star cast of speakers headlines education seminar

By Galen Evans

I think we can say that our 2015 Education Seminar was a great success! With over 180 turf industry professionals in attendance, the seminar was not only a great educational event, but also an excellent networking opportunity. Over 100 people received their pesticide applicator recertification credits with 60 also receiving their fertilizer applicator recertification. We are proud that our program was able to offer both of these benefits to our membership all in one day of education.

The day began with a year-in-review from Steve McDonald of Turfgrass Disease Solutions. Steve's insight on what he has seen on courses in the area over the past year was very enlightening.

Jim Brosnan from the University of Tennessee followed with a very thought provoking presentation on herbicide resistant weeds. This topic is one in which most of us have never really thought about, but it could become a major problem for superintendents if action is not taken.

We welcomed Cale Bigelow from Purdue as our next speaker. He gave us a brief history of why we fertilize and also talked about the Minimum Levels of Sustainable Nutrition. This is a new idea from Micah Woods and PACE Turf that disagrees with the normal soil nutrient guidelines and opens us up to the idea of applying fewer nutrients to the soil while still maintaining healthy turf. Cale also encouraged everyone to do their part to bring more people in to the turf industry. Work with your younger staff members and see if you can cultivate a love for turf in them and help to create tomorrow's industry professionals.

Max Schlossberg brought his humor and knowledge to us for the next presentation. His discussion on the differences between foliar and granular applied nitrogen was very informative.

Frank Wong brought everyone out of the lunch break with a heavy topic on SDHI chemistries. It was great to get Frank out of the office for a while. We look forward to working with him in his new job with Bayer Regulatory Affairs.

Joseph Roberts, the new pathologist at the University of Maryland, was our final speaker of the day. He discussed bacterial wilt and etiolation of bentgrass. We are very excited to work with Joe in his new role at UMD. He will be a very valuable asset to all of us in the Mid-Atlantic. We would like to encourage our members to e-mail Joe at robertsj@umd.edu and welcome him to the area. He is also interested in setting up site visits this spring and summer to check out disease issues and learn what it's like in this grueling summer transition zone.

We want to thank everyone who helped make our Education Seminar a success. We could not have done it without the title sponsor support of Lance Ernst and Kevin Monaco at Turf Equipment and Supply. Their dedication to educating turf industry professionals is fantastic.

We would also like to thank our other event sponsors: BASF, Genesis, Jacobsen, Fisher and Son, Newsom, Floratine, and Mid-Atlantic DryJect. Most importantly, we would like to thank you, our members, for your continued support and attendance at this great event.

The MAAGCS Board of Directors is always looking for ways to improve and ways to make this the 'must attend' event of the year. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to gevans@mcggolf.com.



Dr. Max Schlossberg—Penn State University



Dr. Joseph Roberts—University of Maryland



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Members enjoyed a barbecue lunch at the sporting clays event presented by Helena



GCSAA Regional Manager, Chase Rogan, shares a laugh with VGCSA President, Jeff Holliday, GCS of Richmond



Chava McKeel and Leann Cooper at the GCSAA Social Event



Dr. Cale Bigelow of Purdue University speaks at the Education Seminar



Ed Walker of Harrell's (center) leads his team in the sporting clays event



Dr. Frank Wong of Bayer shares a laugh with Corey Haney of Washington G&CC

Short-term success breeds long-term results for Assistant Program

The Mid-Atlantic Assistants Association program has had great success thus far. We have had the opportunity to network with industry experts, superintendents, vendors, and other partners attending these events. Networking opportunities for assistants are unlimited this year! For those assistants who have participated in any of the meetings or social networking events held after the meetings, you know how beneficial they can be.

The first event that we held this year was meeting Turf Equipment and Supply Company. This was a great start to the 2015 season! The assistants were able to hear the history of TESCO, followed by a tour of their facility, and then wrapped up with a talk about the different products and services that TESCO has to offer.

Our next meeting was held in March with a great talk from Steve McDonald on getting your season started as an assistant. Steve McDonald spoke about re-grassing greens, annual bluegrass weevils and different control options, and ended the talk with an open discussion. Both events have been free thanks to the tremendous support from sponsors. In my opinion, this is a great start to the long-term relationship with our vendors, and I appreciate their support.

So what are the goals for this year? I am looking to increase involvement through education, social events and professional development for assistants. Everything starts with participation and awareness of our events. As a result, we are molding our future leaders and the future of our association.

The Assistants Association program can be tailored to focus on new development areas to improve our skill sets in communication, resume building, team coaching and agronomic focuses. Every meeting that we hold has an area of focus that pertains to our careers. The education is the foundation of what we do, but also will consistently change.

The last goal this year is networking. By allowing the assistants to network, it will broaden our horizons and challenge us in new ways. After every meeting the assistants are given an opportunity to attend a networking session or social event. This allows for other assistants to interact with each other outside of the work environment who may not have ever met before. Networking is an essential part of our industry and this is a great way in our busy work schedules to promote this idea. Networking gives us the opportunity to not only learn new ideas, but also to share them with fellow assistants. While networking, new ideas are always brought to the table and discussed with the idea of improving the club, the staff, and ourselves.



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Lead On

MAAGCS Vice President Mike Bostian and Chapter Executive David Norman represented MAAGCS at the Chapter Leaders Symposium, held March 23-25 at GCSAA headquarters. The event featured updates from the national office, education, breakout sessions and networking with 25 different chapters from around the country. Several national board members attended, including GCSAA President John O'Keefe.

Norman presented on the Virginia Chapter's development of a Best Management Practices manual, which was published in January, 2012. He traced the process from concept through publication, citing the key elements of budgeting, fund raising, project management, research and public relations. Norman also serves as Chapter Executive in Virginia.

The group then broke out into regional groups and compared notes on activities in the region. Subsequently they divided into chapter leaders and chapter executive groups. The chapter leaders discussed board roles and responsibilities, while the execs engaged in an open forum on operations.

Mischia Wright of the Environmental Institute for Golf gave an update on the Rounds4Research program. MAAGCS is in the process of soliciting donations of a foursome at Maryland courses (www.rounds4research.com).



Mike Bostian represented MAAGCS at the Chapter Leaders event

A lively discussion of GCSAA communications and marketing activities ensued. Craig Smith unveiled a new campaign entitled "Thank a golf course superintendent," featuring snippets of Tour players such as Jack Nicklaus, Rory McIlroy, Ricky Fowler, Michelle Wie and others. Smith encouraged chapters to consider using the TV, radio, web and print versions in Chapter Outreach promotions, and the MAAGCS plans to apply for a grant.



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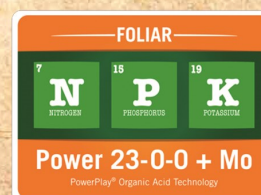
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