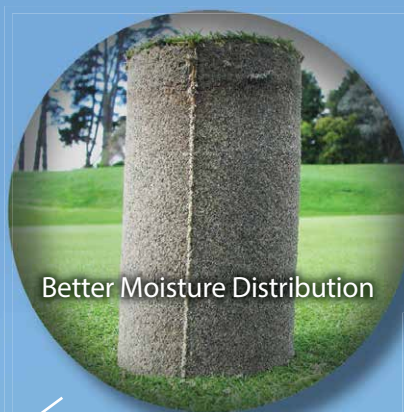


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Upcoming Events

August 31st—Stewards of the Chesapeake @ Columbia CC

October 6th—Superintendent/Head Professional @ Belle Haven CC

October 26th—MAAGCS Annual Championship @ Towson Golf & Country Club



Chris Harriman

Dear Members,

I hope everyone has survived the ridiculously wet spring. My guys are tired of scraping silt, shoveling bunker sand and blowing clippings. On the plus side it has definitely been nice getting home on time more often than not. One positive result of all the rain is that our vendors should be able to make up some ground with fungicide sales. The Mid-Atlantic has not had this much disease pressure in years!

Since coming onto the Board five years ago, I have become much more aware of how our jobs are affected by the government. We have laws that tell us how to apply pesticides as well as fertilizer. State and county employees grace our presence annually to make sure we are doing everything correctly. Although this is being eased, government taxes the amount of water flowing through our property. They even go so far as to crawl in and around our waterways to make sure they are taken care of. The point is our jobs are impacted heavily each day by people and agencies that essentially have no real concept of what we are trying to accomplish.

Jay Nalls has been at the forefront of the MAAGCS government relations for 8 years and at the end of 2015 he will be stepping off the Board. Jay has made a mountain of progress during his tenure. Most of the progress has been in the shape of educating and informing law makers and influencing them not to do something.

As you know, golf courses remain at the mercy of the government to decide exactly what waterways they control and what Montgomery County is going to do with pesticide applica-

tions. In addition to maintaining a strong government relations presence, the Board is moving forward with a Best Management Practices project. This project will not only help clarify the benefits of what we do on a daily basis to outside agencies, but also advise people inside our industry on how to possibly do their jobs a little better.

The MAAGCS Board of Directors will continue to thank Jay for all he has done for our association in the next few months. In addition, we will be scouting for people that can help the MAAGCS, while working with our BMP project and further government relations work. Whether you realize it or not, the way you do your job can be changed extremely quickly by someone who has no idea what dollar spot or pythium is. As Florida, Virginia and New York have seen, it is in the Green Industry's best interest to write as much of the rule book as possible before the government gets too ambitious. We know time is of the essence so if you are interested in pitching in, please let me know. Good luck this summer!

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Be an Advocate

Investing in government relations is an important endeavor in our business. Whether we like it or not, our industry can be affected by various pieces of legislation on the federal, state, and local level. From entertainment taxes, to immigrant staffing, to fertilizer legislation, we must build relationships that allow us to be a resource for our officials at every level of government.

Nationally, GCSAA has the Grassroots Ambassadors program that matches a Class A, SM, or C member with every member of congress. The goal is to educate representatives about our industry. Locally, you may deal with water authorities or township ordinances of varying degrees. Here, the goal is still the same – build a relationship and make yourself a resource for those around you. Educate.

Even our recently completed Rounds 4 Research program is an extension of government relations. This year, we yielded over \$112,500 to support turfgrass research around the country. Promoting a program like R4R shows people that we are serious about continual improvement, that we care about getting better, and that we put our money where our mouth is regarding management practices based in science.

Recently in PA, we hosted Pennsylvania Golf Day in Harrisburg. Participants from 7 golf organizations engaged in about 80 meetings with state legislators and/or their staff. We talked about golf's economic impact in Penn-

sylvania – almost \$2 billion annually. And we talked about the number of jobs golf creates in the state – about 30,000 with a payroll approaching \$500 million. We also met with chairmen of the committees that are responsible for fertilizer and drought legislation.

In my opinion, we need to grow these initiatives. Continue to build relationships. Continue to do what you can on the local level. Your club may even be the biggest employer in the township, and that is a story worth telling. But regardless of how you do it, find a way to get engaged in government relations. Be an advocate for *your* industry, because nobody is going to do it for us.

If you are interested in helping the MAA-GCS Government Relations, please contact David Norman at midatlgcsaa@gmail.com.



Chase Rogan

GCSAA Field Staff

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Government Relations: Jay Nalls

At the end of May, the Army Corp of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the Clean Water Rule (WOTUS Rule). This is anticipated to go into effect 60 days after being published in the Federal Register, which should be happening any day now.

The theory behind this is quite simple. If we protect the water upstream from our navigable and protected waters, we protect the waters themselves. For example, if we protect the streams that feed Rock Creek, we protect Rock Creek, and thus we protect the Potomac River.

This WOTUS rule is going to present a challenge to golf course superintendents. The document itself is around 299 pages long, and the definitions are long and involved. A basic summary is as follows:

- If your water surface (such as a pond) is within 4,000 feet of navigable water, your water surface is considered protected.
- If your water surface (such as a pond) is within 100 feet of the high water mark of a body of water covered under this rule (such as a stream or creek that meets up with a larger stream or creek) then your water surface is probably deemed protected.
- If your land surface has a drainage swale that flows water after a storm, and this flow goes into a body of water covered under this rule, then your land surface probably deemed protected.
- If your land surface falls within the 100 year flood plain, then your land surface in the flood plain is considered protected.

Here is how you find if you are in the 100 year flood plain (1% annual chance flood). Follow this link <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search> and type in the address of your facility. Then look at the key on the map, find the connecting roads that show your facility's location and determine if part of your course is in the protected areas.

Take the time now to find out if you fall within these areas.

I have put in a call to the Office of Water for the EPA, and also a call into Regulatory Community of Practice for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to find out what steps we as an industry need to follow next. From my understanding, all the above areas will need to be assessed on a case by case method by one of the two organizations. We may need to acquire permitting to apply fertilizer and pesticides to the above described areas.

As the GCSAA gains more information and resources, we will make sure they are available to you.



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.

R4R Auction is completed! Thank you donors and bidders for helping MAA-GCS and GCSAA raise funds for turf research through R4R program. Your

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GETTING TO KNOW



Chris Sandels

Chris Sandels is the Assistant Representative on the MAAGCS Board of Directors, and is currently the Assistant Superintendent at Chevy Chase Country Club. Chris graduated from Purdue University with a 4-year degree in Turfgrass Science in 2012.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?

As a Golf Course Superintendent at a facility with plenty of opportunity to grow and make an impact.

WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING ASPECT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ROLE?

Keeping perspective of personal goals and professional goals.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ROLE?

Learning the challenges of maintaining a golf course, while also leading staff members every day.

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

This is a very tight knit network of professionals who are highly successful and offer a lot of knowledge to pull from.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION ASSISTANT PROGRAM?

Continue to engage with our members and develop a strong event program for all to enjoy.

WHAT NEW PRACTICES OR TECHNOLOGY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE YEARS TO COME?

The use of communication through various platforms—Social Media, Drones, Powerpoints, videos, etc.

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MAAGCS Receives Circle of Friends Award

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents received the Circle of Friends Award from the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resource. Mike Barrett, MAAGCS Past President, accepted the award at the AGNR Alumni Banquet on April 16th. The award is given to organizations for "out of the ordinary service" to the college.

In the presentation the Mid-Atlantic chapter was recognized for its contributions to research, scholarship opportunities for students, contributions to offset travel expenses for GCSAA Turf Bowl teams, and for consistently waiving registration fees for students at chapter education events.



MAAGCS Past President Mike Barrett, CGCS, receives the Circle of Friends Award from Dean Cheng-I Wei (left) and Alumni Association President Robert Morris (right).

UMD Field Day a Huge Success

The University of Maryland hosted their biannual field day on July 15th with some of the latest and greatest research for turf managers. The MAAGCS was well represented at the event on a sunny and warm day.

Dr. Joseph Roberts, Dr. Thomas Turner and Dr. Mark Carroll provided a fresh look at new management tools, improved turf cultivars, disease management strategies and cultural practices to improve playing conditions.

This was Dr. Joseph Roberts' first field day at the University of Maryland, which went off with out a hitch. Congrats to the University of Maryland faculty and staff for another great field day event.



Dr. Joseph Roberts (left) discusses Creeping bentgrass trials at the University of Maryland field day on July 14th

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Shows Salaries for Superintendents Continue Steady Increase.

In 2015, Biennial survey shows average salary rises to \$85,204

Lawrence, Kan. (May 26, 2015) - Golf courses around the country continue to recognize that an investment in golf course superintendents is an investment in the facility, as the average salary for head superintendents climbed to \$85,204 annually.

The average salary and additional data come from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's latest biennial Compensation and Benefits Report. The 2015 Report showed that the \$85,204 average salary was an increase of 3.2 percent over the 2013 report, and continues the trend of increases in every two-year period since GCSAA began tracking the data in 1993.

For certified golf course superintendents, those who have achieved the highest level of recognition through education, experience and service, the increase was even higher. Their average salary rose 5.9 percent in the last two years to

\$103,993.

Additional insights from the report showed that superintendents also report feeling slightly more secure in their jobs: 66 percent compared to 62.7 percent in 2013. The average number of years superintendents have spent in their current position rose from 9.7 to 10.4.

The report also gives a good picture of the profile of GCSAA superintendents and their operations. The average age of a superintendent is 46.2 years and they have spent 15.9 years in the profession.

Between December 2014 and January 2015 association research firm Industry Insights sent the 2015 survey to all GCSAA Class A and Superintendent Members, and the response rate was 41.8 percent with a margin of error of +/-1.3 percent and a 95 percent level of confidence.

Britton Attains CGCS Distinction

MAAGCS congratulates Stephen Britton, CGCS of TPC Potomac at Avenel Farms on attaining the Certified Golf Course Superintendent designation!

The Australian native grew up in Frankston Victoria and he studied at the North Melbourne University, earning a B.S. in Turfgrass Management. He worked eight years at Royal Melbourne GC, with five European Tour events during his tenure.

Subsequently he worked at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club (Wimbledon) for a year, before moving on to the Robert Trent Jones GC in Gainesville, VA, where he was Assistant Superintendent for three years. From there he was hired as Superintendent of the Piedmont Club in northern Virginia.

Britton was then recruited to TPC Potomac, where he has served as Superintendent for the past five years, hosting four Tour events.



Time to cool down from summer stress

Has anyone caught a break in the weather this year? I can speak for most of us that this has been a challenging year to manage not only time on the golf course, but outside as well. Every day seems like Groundhog Day as plant protect application intervals have increased, and now it seems a hand hose is my new best friend.

The assistant program is not just about social events, but also utilizing the network to help deal with summer stress off the golf course. We all need time away to do what we enjoy outside of work. Everyone operates under different work schedules and guidelines, but we can all find ways to find a release from the daily grind. We have been very fortunate this year to rely on our vendors to provide these kind of platforms to gather with other assistants.

I also believe in using these same resources to have general discussions about what we are seeing and doing out on the golf course.. Within these conversations is a learning opportunity. You can learn a new idea to be able to take back to the superintendent or other staff members. One simple phone call may create the kind of support needed to execute your ideas or brighten your day.

Getting away from the golf course sometimes to regroup and relax can be a very effective strategy. It is our responsibility to make sure that we keep ourselves and our team refreshed throughout these most crucial months on the golf course. Don't feel afraid to communicate this need with your boss or fellow assistants. Many times we become tired or feel burnt out and this is when mistakes can occur. It is always helpful to make sure that you can encourage the team and yourself to make sure that valuable time can be spent away from the golf course.

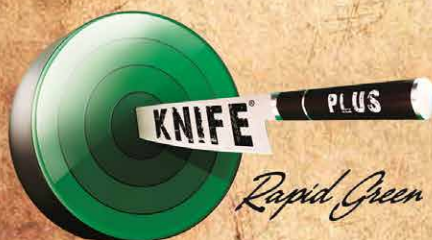
I also recommend utilizing Twitter as a platform to connect with other individuals who are going through the same trials and tribulations of summer stress. There are many conversations that are held dealing with the challenges of golf course managers.

The next assistant's event is scheduled for November 2nd at Belmont Country Club. We have been asked to have a joint meeting with VGCSAA to continue to grow our network even larger than just the Mid-Atlantic. The event will combine both education and golfing. Keep your inboxes fresh as more information will be provided for this event in the time to come.



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A behind the scenes view of the controversial U.S. Open at Chambers Bay

This past June I had the opportunity to be a member of the Agronomy Team at Chambers Bay Golf Course during the 2015 U.S. Open. It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up! After working the Ryder Cup and the Scottish Open the last few years, I thought this was just going to be another golf tournament. Instead, it turned out to be one of the most controversial USGA Tournaments in a long time! I had a behind the scenes look at the course and the decisions made for the tournament.

Everyone thought they would see the nice green Chambers Bay that they had seen leading up to the U.S. Open. The USGA had a different idea. They arrived at the course a month prior and really started limiting the amount of water being applied. They wanted the course firm, fast, and brown. They wanted a course that would resemble a British Open feel.

This made for a playing surface that was fantastic. The course was comprised of fine fescue with patches of *Poa annua* in the greens. Generally, it always rains in Washington, according to the local residents, however during the week of the U.S. Open the temperatures reached the low 80's with no rain. Very little irrigation water was being applied causing the fine fescue to become dormant and creating the brown look. Soil moisture readings for the week were running around 5% compared to the Mid-Atlantic averages of 15-25% that we are used to!

Throughout the week the greens, tees, and fairways were being mowed at a height of .170. This seemed very high coming from an area where greens are generally mowed from .100 to .150. All week players were complaining about the *Poa Annua* in the greens. A few of the greens had large sections of *Poa Annua* so they would mow these sections down to .150 thinking that by the afternoon rounds it would be the same height as everything else. It was hard to tell if it worked or not.

The real problem might have been the rocks coming onto the greens from bunker shots. This is the only major tournament that I know where the players were allowed to remove rocks from their swing path in the bunkers. Chambers Bay Golf Course was built on the site of an old stone quarry so it's not surprising that there were stones in the bunkers. The bunker sand was also very different. I would describe it as playing out of the sand you would find at the beach. At the other tournaments that I've worked, they would be watering bunkers and trying to make sure that they were the right firmness. Here at Chambers Bay, the sand was light and fluffy. I believe the players were not used to these types of bunker conditions.



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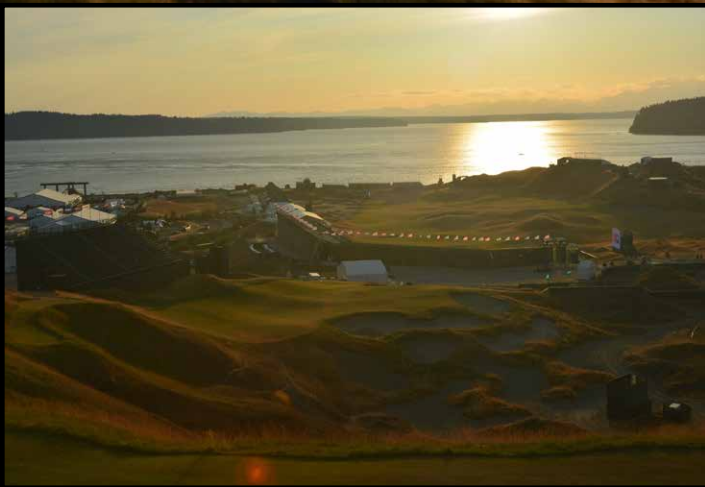


This was also the first course in U.S Open history to be a par 70 and have the first and eighteenth hole rotate between playing as a par 4 and par 5. It was definitely interesting and left the players guessing how the course was going to play the next day. The par 3 ninth hole had two different teeing locations. I would have liked to see the upper tee used again but I guess the USGA didn't want to give the media more to talk about with Jason Day and his vertigo incident.

From a spectators perspective this had to be one of the most difficult courses to walk and get a view of your favorite player. It was nearly impossible to follow one player around the entire course. With all of the dunes and bunkers surrounding each hole, a lot of time your view would be blocked or you would be so far away that you would need binoculars to watch the shot. However, if you wanted to watch the whole course you could do that from standing at the top of the golf course and listen to the coverage on a course cast device. It would be no different than watching your favorite football team from the last row of the upper deck.

There were plenty of spectators complaining about not enough seating on the course and they were right. Even with one of the largest grandstands at a golf event and a total of more than 18,000 seats, there just wasn't enough room for all the spectators. Most grandstands would have at least a 20 minute wait to get a seat. The key to finding a seat was to get to your favorite hole early and not leave. By Sunday, the USGA finally started allowing spectators to sit and stand on the dunes. They had been trying to avoid this as much as possible due to the how slippery the long fescue gets once it's trampled, but it was inevitable in the end.

All in all I think the USGA was very pleased with the golf course and the support they got from the fans of the Pacific Northwest. With the information I had and my experience in course management I wouldn't have made any significant changes to this course or the tournament! It was well run and the course was in great tournament shape. I would look for them to return to Chambers Bay for another U.S. Open!



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Growing pains are abound



Hello summer, right? This has been quite an interesting year in terms of growing grass and managing a golf course with the challenges Mother Nature continues to throw in the Mid-Atlantic. Our area has gone from prolonged winter, to keeping the pump station busy, to "weevilmania", to the wettest month of June in history. I have been told that the first year as Golf Course Superintendent is the toughest; I am on board with that statement! The trials and tribulations of my first year have certainly been documented on our blog and Twitter account at Sparrows Point. Like most Superintendents in the area, I have found myself juggling realistic expectations and opportunistic thinking.

Looking back at my notes from GIS 2015 - Footgolf, improved landscaping, tees to please - and I wonder where I planned to fit this all in. Setting goals early in the season has kept us on track, but there's been some detours along the way, too. I have relied on my peers within the Mid-Atlantic Association for a number of reasons, mostly for therapeutic reassurance. Finding solutions for off looking turf has its own price tag, but listening to experience from other Superintendents and vendors is worth plenty of merit. You can't find this type of information in a Google search or in a textbook. Our Association is packed with knowledge and proven skills in politics, mentoring, budgeting, teaching, recruiting and setting expectations.

Most of you veterans probably laugh at this young buck talk about changing a culture, discussing agronomic programs, and tweeting out everything under the sun at Sparrows Point. Yet, this type of engagement has been a great source of progression in my young tenure.

I had a recent Twitter conversation with a MAAGCS peer, who was able to relate in a manner that gave me fresh perspective on one of my growing pains as head manager. What I've come to find is that those growing grass in the golf industry have a real sense of compassion for others. No matter how busy one can be, while Mother Nature pours ten plus inches of rain on their facility, our members find time to offer a voice of reason.

Engage your Assistants into the MAAGCS, because it's a channel for them to vent, grow, learn and network. Our Assistants are all learning the profession through our eyes, too. They have an extremely challenging job to meet our expectations, while also learning and growing. Chris Sandels has done a tremendous job developing a strong core of participants in the Assistant programs. Get your Assistants involved as a form of appreciation or compensation.

Our vendors deserve a lot of credit for being the "ace in the hole" when problems arise at our facilities. I can speak on behalf of the Board of Directors and say how much we value all of your support, friendship and service. Thank God for Sprint's unlimited minutes and data, because I would have wracked up the phone bill this month.

So as we head into the final 60 days or so of summer, don't be afraid to reach out to those within the MAAGCS. We have a great group of leaders and professionals who can offer new ideas, counsel you through personnel challenges, and be a resource to overcome any hurdle. At the same time, I encourage all of you to offer suggestions to your peers. A simple message can be a lead for someone in need of tested experience. Therein lies the overall mission of the MAAGCS - dedicated to providing value to members through programs and services that enhance our profession.

Keep your roots healthy and members happy! See you at Columbia Country Club for the Stewards of the Chesapeake!

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