

TurfgrassMatters

Fall 2017

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Mike J. Gilmore's Passing Leaves Industry Void

Mike J. Gilmore passed away on August 27, 2017 leaving a large void for many industry professionals in the Mid-Atlantic region. Esophageal cancer may have won the battle, but Mike's heart will go on for winning the war.

Mike built Growing Solutions' reputation by providing quality service and solutions for his customers including golf courses and athletic fields since 2000. He diversified his company with cultural practices, renovations, new construction and cost-effective solutions. No job was too big or too small. He relied on the leadership of Joe Pishtey, James Duvall, Mario Fonseca, Mauricio Mendoza with over 90 years of industry experience between them. Their portfolio of accomplishments ranged from all levels of clients, but the common threshold was the attention to detail and execution of the Growing Solutions team.

"Mike's legacy will certainly live on with the team he put in place running the company that he built," said Paul Schultheis, a friend and partner of Growing Solutions.

Eric Snelsire, Mid Atlantic Area Sales Manager for Bayer, remembers vividly how Mike welcomed him to the area 15 years ago when he first took over Lighthouse Sound in his early days. Growing Solutions contracted out all five Ruark courses before the company invested in it's own equipment to complete the work internally. After the properties handled aeration work internally, Mike routinely stopped to provide labor and equipment in support of their efforts.

"There were numerous accounts of Mike sending equipment in to help get our work done quicker," said Snelsire. "He would help us complete work that was rained out when we needed additional support."

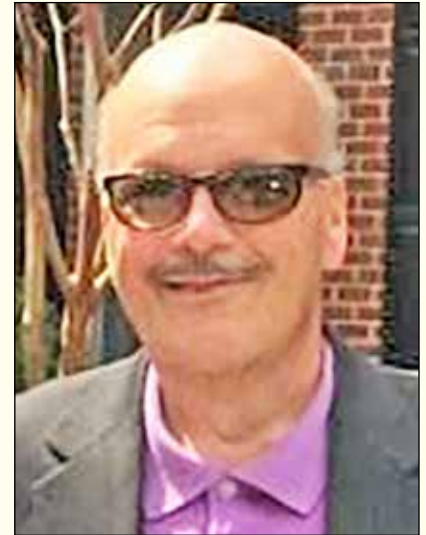
The consistency of Mike's willingness to help out long after a sale stuck out to Snelsire. No matter how inconvenient it was for him or his business, Mike was always there to be a support system for golf course superintendents.

"He was always there to help whether it was lending an ear to listen, equipment, labor or morale support. Mike was one of the best in the business," said Snelsire.

Actively involved in both the GCSAA and STMA, Mike took his expertise to both arenas. High school fields, soccer, baseball and football were all under the portfolio of turf attended to by Mike. He had a great relationship with Nicole McFadyen, head groundskeeper for the Baltimore Orioles. She credits Mike for helping her team annually provide top notch conditions for the players and fans. It is not a surprise his devotion to the Orioles, as they were Mike's favorite team and punching bag on social media.

"Mike had my back for the last 17 years, and played an integral role in the success of Oriole Park at Camden Yards," said McFadyen.

Continued on p. 5



Mike J. Gilmore

"More important than the quality of service, were the visits. I always looked forward to listening to Mike tell stories about his experience and background"

Brad Novotny,
Golf Course Superintendent,
Hillendale Country Club



Growing Solutions team completes shockwave aeration



Growing Solutions at Oriole Park at Camden Yards

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Mike Gilmore cont.

Mike's passion for our industry rolled into his social media presence with pictures of his team, their work and numerous industry articles. Often, you could find Mike sharing the successes of his clients. He took a lot of pride in the relationships forged, and seeing clubs and organizations succeed.

His friendships in the industry were scattered throughout. Mike's impact on the industry as a golf course superintendent and owner of Growing Solutions, Inc. was felt as far as the Dominican Republic. Damon Di Giorgio, Director of Agronomy at Playa Grande in the Dominican Republic, worked under Mike during his years as a Superintendent. Mike was extremely proud of Damon and his dog, Pinki's, outreach to hospice care and patients with Alzheimer's disease.

You could also get a strong inclination Mike was a comedian by his critical commentary of his favorite sports teams. Knowing how and when to break the ice, Mike was key to those who needed a dose of laughter in their daily routines.

"More important than the quality of service, were the visits. I always looked forward to listening to Mike tell stories about his experience and background," Brad Novotny,

Golf Course Superintendent at Hillendale Country Club.

The only thing greater than Mike's expertise was his heart and passion for his family. Mike was kind, funny and loyal to his friends. His relationship with his wife, children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters was strong. He was passionate about youth sports, actively involved coaching basketball and baseball. He had incredible admiration for his family's successes and support. Family was extremely important to Mike, and he'd let it be known to all in the industry the importance of spending time with loved ones.

Even as Mike battled through treatments and the rollercoaster ride of emotions, he looked out for others and the vision for his company front and center. Joe Pishtey, President of Growing Solutions, LLC, had been with Mike through the ups and downs.

For months they discussed their goals, strengths and weaknesses, while focusing on a seamless transition for the better part of the last year. Strengthening social media presence, developing new relationships with both golf and athletic facilities, and dedicating their efforts to provide the best service for Growing

Solutions' dedicated customers are amongst some of the initial priorities.

"Mike's professional life was dedicated to the turfgrass industry and the people in it," said Pishtey. "He was very appreciative of the support our industry gave not only to him, but his business that he started in 2000. He will be missed by many, but his legacy will continue."

A legacy larger than life.



Mike's team completing drainage work at Riverbend

Industry Remembers Mike Gilmore

Paul Schultheis – Corporate Sales Manager, Finch Services

Finch Services started working with Mike in 1999 for his business that he started in 2000. He had this vision to take an aeration crew, move them and the equipment from course to course, saving those facilities money, while making a couple bucks himself.

Mike was much more than a customer to us and everyone at Finch. He really made us part of his family. In fact, he and I used to call each other "dude." Pretty sure that's how my number came up in his phone!

I was new in the business, and he had been in the business for quite some time.

We had a pretty cool relationship. Mike taught me some things, but I was able to teach him some things despite only being in the business a year or two. We became much more than business partners, we became friends.

That's what Mike did. He didn't aerate fairways or rebuild bunkers, he made friends. It just so happened his friends needed his services!

He treated everyone the way he'd want he or his family to be treated, which showed in the network and business that he created. There

was no real competition for Growing Solutions, because he created a niche within the market that was needed. He oftentimes competed with much larger companies for some of his construction jobs, but would mostly win since there was no job too small or too big for them!

The company focus changed over the years as the market demanded. Mike was right there with it riding the wave. He was truly an icon in our area and a great friend that will be missed.



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Stewards of the Chesapeake Recap

Tim Kennelly and Baltimore Country Club Host a Successful Stewards of the Chesapeake

On Monday, October 16, Baltimore Country Club hosted the annual MAAGCS Stewards of the Chesapeake event. Golf Course Superintendent, Tim Kennelly, had the world-renowned East Course in immaculate shape for the 128 golfers that teed it up.

Kicking off the event was Dr. Joseph Roberts of UMD, who gave an update on the current projects underway at the university along with future initiatives. Following the presentation was a superb lunch, golf and the awards party reception.

The defending champions posted a total score of 123, but were edged out by the team comprised of Eric David of the U.S. Naval Academy Golf Club, Mark Jewell of Rocky Gap Casino and Resort, Steven Smith of Columbia Country Club and Andrew Harrison of Pocono Turf, who posted a total score of 120.

Additional Prize winners include Scott Wunder, claiming the Long Drive for what seems like the 100th time. In the closest to the pin contests, Kyle Trzaskos hit a shot to 8'10" on hole #4, Mike Mueller hit one to 8'6" on #13 and David McGregor cozier it up to 6'0" on #17. A highlight of the afternoon and a Stewards of the Chesapeake first was Dave Nehila's Hole-in-One on hole #9, known as "Spectators," congratulations, Dave!

As always, proceeds from this event go towards supporting research, scholarships and government relations. A special thank you goes out to Landscape Supply and all of the sponsors, players, and event staff for making this another successful Stewards of the Chesapeake!



Ian Patrican, Adam Miller, Stephen Jackson, Jordan Giles, Chris Sandels



Kevin Connelly of Landscape Supply



Dave Nehila scored a hole-in-one on #9



Cam Copley, Kenneth Ingram, Tom Walsh, Lester Tanner



Matt Miller, Kody Key, Bill Augustine, Brad Novotny



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Field Trip for First Green's STEM Program

Sandymount Elementary Students Conduct STEM Lessons at Westminster National Golf Course

A fifth grade STEM class from Sandymount Elementary School visited Westminster National Golf Course, located at 2158 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, for hands-on environmental science activities. The students studied soil samples, learned about putting green maintenance and water conservation, and had a fun putting contest.

Golf course superintendents from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course

Superintendents, who may also host their own field trips, were observing and helping during the day.

The field trip is part of First Green's STEM program, which uses golf courses as learning labs. Golf course superintendents need to be highly trained in STEM to manage their golf courses. They share this knowledge with teachers and students, showing real world applications that inspire student interest in STEM.

First Green is an innovative environmental outreach program using golf courses as environmental learning labs and is the only program of its kind. For more information, please visit www.thefirstgreen.org.

To view a video of this visit, go to http://video.carrollk12.org/view/CETV_SSGOLF_10182017.



Chris Harriman instructs the kids



Mike Bostian shares a laugh with a receptive audience



Ryan Kraushofer welcomes the class to Westminster National



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Assistants Forum a Success at Belmont Country Club

On Monday, October 30, Belmont Country Club and Aaron Wells, Golf Course Superintendent, hosted the Assistants Forum, jointly presented with VGCSA and coordinated by respective board members Mark Jones of Baltimore Country Club (MAAGCS) and Steven Ball of Ballyhack Golf Club (VGCSA).

PGA and Champions Tour veteran Bobby Wadkins headlined the education portion of the event that focused on etiquette and professionalism. Bobby shared his ideas of how the golf course maintenance staff should interact with club members, the golf professional staff, and vendors as they represent themselves and the clubs that employ them. Bobby also shared personal stories from his time on tour traveling the world, and how hard work and respect for others ultimately paved the way for his success.

The panel segment was also a hit with representation from some of the top superintendents in the region. The panel included Bobby Wadkins, Aaron Wells (Belmont CC), Trevor Hedgepeth (Kinloch GC), and Sean Baskette (Hidden Valley CC). A Q&A session took place with audience members asking the panel a multitude of questions regarding how to address specific situations as a golf course employee, in a professional manner. A popular narrative was to treat others the same way you would like to be treated, if the roles were reversed.

Following the education meeting, there was a clinic with Bobby Wadkins and the first ever Ryder Cup style match between MAAGCS and VGCSA for the Cutter Cup Trophy. High winds and chilly weather made for a shortened clinic with Bobby; however, many players were able to get a quick one-on-one lesson with the Champions Tour Major winner, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Aaron Wells and his staff had the golf course in superb shape, even after the heavy rain that fell the evening prior. It was a hard fought match, coming down to the final scorecard. The MAAGCS was leading 7-6 only needing a tie in the final match to claim the trophy. However it was not to be. The VGCSA team won the final point resulting in a tie for the match. We will have to wait for the next installment to see who will claim the trophy. Both associations now share the record of 0-0-1 in the event.



Bobby Wadkins addresses the crowd



Attendees taking in the panel discussion



Steven Ball and Mark Jones with the Cutter Cup Trophy

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GCSAA Report – Chase Rogan

GCSAA Happenings

Each year, the GCSAA Board of Directors work with field staff to schedule outreach visits among regions in which that particular board member does not reside. The goals of these visits are to reach superintendents, learn about local initiatives and challenges, engage students, engage chapters, and hear from members. On October 2-5, GCSAA Director Kevin Sunderman, superintendent at Isla Del Sol Yacht and Country Club in St. Petersburg, Florida, visited the Mid-Atlantic region for four days of a packed agenda. In total, we visited four members at their facilities, met and spoke with students at two turf clubs, and attended two chapter meetings and a chapter board meeting.

Our four site visits peppered the stretch between D.C. and State College as we made it a priority to reach students at two universities – UMD and Penn State. From members, we continue to hear that labor is a major challenge around our region, as well as across the country. GCSAA continues to engage on several fronts to address this issue, including H2B advocacy in government affairs, engaging youth through First Green, and engaging teenagers through Future Farmers of America. Our time with the students was fantastic. These young people are excited about their upcoming internships or full-time entrance into the workforce and their energy is contagious. We learned from students about their future goals and Kevin talked a little about how GCSAA can help them achieve those goals. After learning from these students, I can tell you the future is in good hands.



Kevin Sunderman and Joe Haskins

At two chapter meetings in Central Pennsylvania and West Virginia, we interacted with members as Kevin was able to speak to the groups about current GCSAA initiatives and how to get engaged. At the event in Central PA (in partnership with Wee One Foundation), over 100 participants came together to support a member who had recently lost their 13-year-old son to cancer. These are heartfelt moments that make you appreciate the camaraderie in the industry, and I know that it was an emotional day for many. What a way to support our own. In West Virginia, we had an opportunity to meet with the chapter's board of directors to talk about the BMP project. As we continue to build BMPs across the country, buy-in from superintendents and our state regulatory agencies is absolutely critical. I'm excited to work with the group in West Virginia to begin the process of building our BMP model for the wild and wonderful mountainous state.

We also had the opportunity to engage GCSAA members and others through GCSAA's new social media platform, Snapchat (the username is "GCSAA official"). It was a fun opportunity to highlight the week, engage some of the younger generation, and really have some fun with communication.

Thanks to everyone who was involved in our trip across the region!



Chase Rogan

GCSAA Field Staff
Mid-Atlantic Representative
chaser@gcsaa.org
800-472-7878, ext. 3609

Save this Date – Tuesday, December 12, 2017

2017 MAAGCS Annual Meeting and Elections to be Held at Argyle Country Club

MAAGCS Past President, Mike Barrett of Argyle Country Club, will be hosting the 2017 Annual Meeting and Elections on Tuesday, December 12. The year-end meeting will include golf awards, scholarship presentations, Q&A with Dr. Joseph Roberts of UMD, donation to The Yellow Ribbon Fund, elections and more. You can sign up for the event by visiting www.maagcs.org.



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USGA Green Section Report – Elliott Dowling

Warm-season grasses are in excellent condition in the Northeast this fall, especially with the recent warm weather. However, focusing on playability too late into the fall and failing to prepare the turf for winter could lead to weak plants that are unable to withstand winter traffic or cold weather. Turf growth will start to slow as days shorten and nighttime temperatures decrease, making late summer and early fall the most critical times to prepare warm-season grasses for dormancy, winter play and next season. Here are a few practices that can help prepare warm-season grasses for winter:

- Begin raising the height of cut (HOC) on fairways and tees several weeks before the first expected frost. Target a minimum height of 0.75 inch. Raising the HOC increases leaf surface area, allowing plants to store more energy for winter.
- Discontinue plant growth regulator applications.
- Discontinue nitrogen fertilizer applications unless overseeding is occurring. If overseeding, do not apply more than 0.5 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
- If necessary, apply muriate of potash (0-0-60), potassium sulfate (0-0-50) or sulfate of potash magnesia (0-0-22). Ensuring potassium levels are sufficient reduces the risk of winter injury.
- Apply preemergence herbicides for *Poa annua* control.
- Do not vertical mow or core aerate during late summer unless the playing surfaces will be overseeded. There might not be time for plants to recover before winter, increasing the risk of winter injury.
- Utilize traffic control strategies that help weak turf regain strength before winter.
- Apply preventive fungicides for spring dead spot. Target a soil temperature of 65-70 degrees Fahrenheit for making applications. Due to the diverse climates in the Northeast, target application dates range from mid-August to late October.

There are no guarantees in this business, especially with winter injury. However, taking the appropriate measures to prepare warm-season turf for winter can reduce the chances of winter injury. Many of these same recommendations apply to cool-season grasses as well, especially for *Poa annua* putting greens in northern areas. Now is the time to start raising the HOC.

If your facility is interested in an alternative to playing golf on turf that has lost its color this winter, attend the **free USGA turf colorant workshop December 4, 2017, at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, Virginia**. The workshop will start at 10 a.m. with a short presentation then go outside for a demonstration before promptly concluding at 11:30 a.m. Contact your regional agronomist for more information.



Elliott Dowling

USGA Green Section Agronomist
edowling@USGA.org



Industry Remembers Mike Gilmore

Tim Kennelly – Director of Grounds, Baltimore Country Club

Mike was always in a good mood. Positive, encouraging, always looked on the bright side and nothing was a problem that couldn't be fixed. He loved Growing Solutions, and the team that he worked with every day.

More importantly, Mike didn't live far from

here and he would stop by occasionally. We would spend most of the time talking about family, friends, and laughing about, "the good ole days."

That's what I'll miss most about Mike, the laughs (Mike had a pretty hearty laugh, as

you know). The fact that your family, friends, and relationships are all that matters at the end of the day.

I think about him often and continue to miss him.



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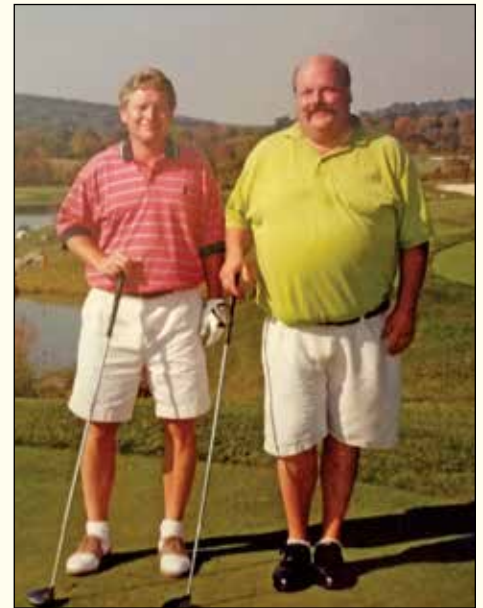
Mark Merrick – V.P. of Sales and Marketing, Genesis Turfgrass

Our friend Mike Gilmore left us recently to meet up with God, Harry Fridley, and Rick Fritz. The stories going around in that foursome must be fantastic and funny! I say “OUR” friend because I truly believe that Mike touched everyone reading these paragraphs in some way. Mike played many roles in his life, from golf course superintendent to business owner, and he always kept the important things like family and friends MOST important. A husband, father, grandfather, son, boss (he was mine once) and friend, he just had a way of doing it all using love and affection.

How many times did you see that smiling face with those squinting eyes and moustache coming at you? You knew once he reached you, calling you “Playa” or “Brother Man,” all would be right with the world no matter what you were facing at the time. I must admit, many times I ask myself, wow, how does he do it? I wish I could be like him!

I could write for hours about Mike because we had so many exploits together, as I know many of you did, and I mean funny, hurting belly laughing and crazy. OK, one quick one. Mike had Maryland vs. Penn State football tickets at Maryland. He drove. On the way back, as many of you know, 95-North was a typical parking lot. I had to jump out and run to the side of the road to relieve myself. In doing so, I tripped and fell down an embankment and had trouble getting back up the hill. Cars were honking and people were laughing with glee. Next thing I know, a big bear of a hand is grabbing me from above the ditch saying, “Get your ass up here brother,” when my pants fell. The horns really started honking when my friend was helping me to quickly fix my pants, so I would not be embarrassed walking back to the car.

I hope that you will always remember the great times with the great human being that Mike was to everyone.



Mark Merrick and Mike Gilmore enjoy a round of golf together.

The Finals are Set!

MAAGCS Match Play Championship Presented by Syngenta

The second installment of the MAAGCS Match Play Championship has been underway since April 1, with 32 teams vying for the chance to call themselves champions! All but two teams have been eliminated. “Franks & Beans” and “Trending Up!” will square off in the final match to determine the winners. It was another successful event making way for MAAGCS members to network with their fellow colleagues while playing some competitive golf around the region. Thank you to our presenting sponsor Syngenta and to everyone who participated this year. Be sure to sign up early in 2018 for this fun event!

Franks & Beans: Ralph Meola – Elkridge Club
Jason Shepherd – Elkridge Club

Trending Up!: Bo Jumbercotta – Landscape Supply
Chris Hinesley – Loudoun Golf and Country Club



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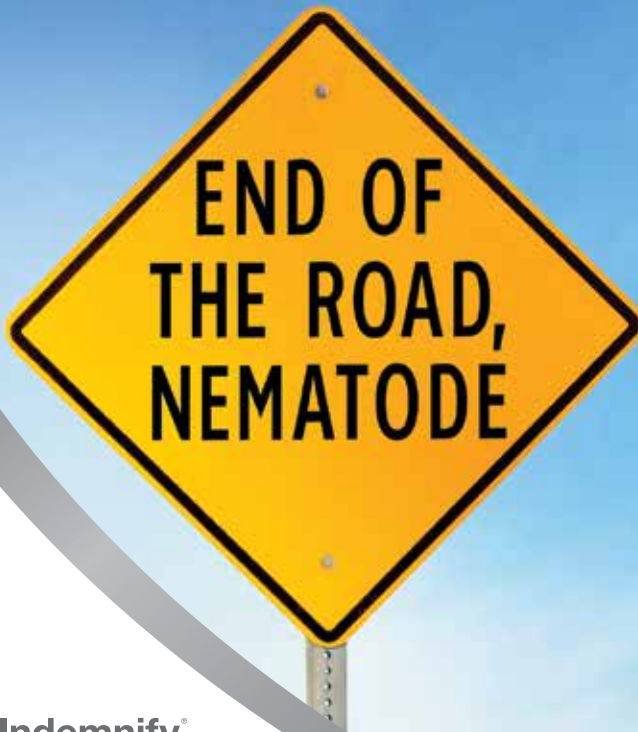
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Getting to Know Tim Kennelly



Tim Kennelly
tkennelly@bcc1898.com

Certified Golf Course Superintendent Baltimore Country Club

How did you get started in the industry?

I consider myself very fortunate in that I knew that at a young age that I wanted to have a career in the golf course maintenance field. I got started when a young superintendent, Tom Walker, called our high school golf coach looking for help at Highland Meadows Country Club.

Our coach knew my interest in the maintenance field and that's how I got my start. I started working for Tom at 16 years old, and two years later followed him when he obtained the job at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio. I was very fortunate to work with Tom for three years before leaving for school at Michigan State to pursue my Turf Management degree.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your role?

Witnessing the maturation and development of staff who dedicate themselves to excellence and continual improvement in their position. This includes leaving the Club to pursue career advancement by obtaining positions as Golf Course Superintendents.



What did hosting the Stewards of the Chesapeake mean to you and Baltimore Country Club?

The Club is honored to be invited to host the Stewards of the Chesapeake meeting in order to support research projects and other priorities pertaining to the golf industry. Giving back to the game of golf, for the preservation and improvement of the environment has been very rewarding.





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This multi-session workshop is designed for native English speakers who work in golf course management, farming, landscaping, and/or other agriculture-based industry jobs where it is beneficial to understand Spanish.

For current UMD students, this workshop is worth 3 elective credits. For golf course superintendents, this workshop qualifies for 3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). For members of the public, this is a non-credit course that can be taken for personal or professional development.

This course has a limited number of seats, and registration is first-come, first-served. With questions, contact IAA Lecturer and Advisor Ken Ingram at kingram@umd.edu.

Register today: go.umd.edu/iaaspanish

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2018 Golf Industry Show – Hotel Reservations are Open!

Annual Social Event is Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Reservations are now available in the MAAGCS' room block for the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio.

The Hotel Contessa is the official hotel for the MAAGCS, VGCSA and ESAGCS for the 2018 GIS. Room availability begins on February 3 and runs through February 11. Rates are \$182 for a king room or two doubles.

On Wednesday, February 7 will be the annual social event joint with VGCSA and ESAGCS, so **SAVE THE DATE!** The host venue for this year will be Howl at the Moon, the #1 nightlife spot in San Antonio that's keeping the Riverwalk dancing! Part bar and part concert, Howl creates a non-stop party with live music. With our VIP section it will be a fantastic event!

Visit the MAAGCS website (www.maagcs.org) to book your room! DEADLINE TO BOOK IS DECEMBER 29, 2017 – FIRST COME – FIRST SERVE!

If you have any questions please contact Kimberly Ragusa at Connections Housing, kragusa@connectionshousing.com | 773-531-8060.



MAAGCS Raises Money for the Yellow Ribbon Fund

At the start of the season the MAAGCS board of directors decided to allocate all funds raised through the 50/50 to the Yellow Ribbon Fund. The Yellow Ribbon Fund is dedicated to helping returning American service men & women, injured during active service by providing practical support to them and their families while they are at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, and after they return to their hometowns. Participation has been great thus

far and we have already raised a total of \$2,450! A special thank you goes out to everyone that has participated in the initiative. MAAGCS will

present a check to a representative from The Yellow Ribbon Fund at the Annual Meeting on December 12th at Argyle Country Club.



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Welcoming Our Injured Service Members Home

Government Relations Update

On October 23, GCSAA Director of Congressional & Federal Affairs Bob Helland offered public testimony in front of officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of the Army outlining the association's recommendations to revise the definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The purpose of the small entity in-person meeting was for the agencies to hear pre-proposal input from a wide variety of interests on the forthcoming proposal to revise the definition of "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act.

During his remarks, Helland focused on:

- Introducing GCSAA and the golf course management profession.
- Why the definition of "waters of the U.S." matters to the golf industry.

- The importance of bringing cooperative federalism into the next version of the Clean Water Rule.
- What waters the agencies should focus on as federally regulated.
- What waters on golf course properties should not be federally regulated.

The agencies are in the process of hosting nine teleconferences tailored to specific sectors such as agriculture and forestry; conservation (including hunting and fishing); small businesses; construction and transportation; environment and public advocacy; mining; industry (energy, chemical, oil/gas); scientific organizations and academia; and stormwater, wastewater management, and drinking water agencies. The Oct. 23 meeting was the only in-person listening session offered by the agencies.

The agencies will also be accepting written comments through www.Regulations.gov docket (EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0480). Comments must be submitted by November 28. GCSAA will provide public comment by the deadline.

For additional information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule/outreach-meetings>.

GCSAA will continue to work with the Waters Advocacy Coalition to help the agencies come up with a sustainable and clear definition of WOTUS.

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Grow a better tomorrow.

Letter from the Editor – Tyler Bloom

The fall leaves are finally changing after a delay. Golf season is winding down, and we're all ready to bundle up for winter. It has been overall a very successful year for many golf courses with rounds up, course conditions favorable, and many dry days for cart revenue. I'm excited to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but am reflecting on the season.

We saw some local industry peers taken away much too soon. Close to me was Mike Gilmore, who provided top notch service in our aeration and construction programs. Mike always had a knack for breaking the ice, which always came at the right time. When things seemed doom and gloom, Mike was a great resource to provide on point experience and knowledge. He was also the first person to give fair criticism. "Tyler, well that wasn't the smartest move I've seen." Unfortunately, I heard that too many times.

I'm sure he could have made many more dollars (Joe Pishtey don't read that), but he was someone who wanted to see others succeed and was willing to accommodate to the club's financial positions. For many of us that partnered with Mike and his team, their cost effective solutions were foundational programs for our golf courses. He understood various club demographics, and the importance of good cultivation programs. Mike was fair, but also expected a level of commitment from his customers.

I know Mike took a lot of pride in his company's work. No project or budget was too small for Mike to assist with. Often, Mike would offer to pick up multiple projects at once to help a superintendent out. I can already see his team shaking their head, because Mike would never say no despite the chaotic schedule they ran.

The rapport Mike had with superintendents was noticeable given his Facebook and social media feed. Often, I would throw jabs at Mike with some of the work being done on site, and he'd respond in jest or with a smart comment. He wasn't one to blow smoke, and he'd easily give "Looking strong!" "Thanks for your commitment!" "Great work!" "You're creating miracles!" I gathered Mike had been through the rigors of our profession, and was compassionate for superintendents.

I'm excited to see the future of Growing Solutions, because Mike put together a fantastic team. In one of our last encounters, Mike made it known it would probably be his last visit. He discussed his vision for the company, and was confident it would move on quite well. I was always appreciative of his sincerity, but also his courage. Mike never made any visits about him or his health. Many of us in the industry were concerned of Mike's future, but he never seemed to cast any doubt.

He quickly would turn away the attention from his health to the challenges and successes of golf course superintendents. I am confident that we helped Mike keep moving forward, and brought joy to his life during times of his struggle. Our industry is full of great people willing to lift others up, and Mike exemplified the highest qualities of our profession.

Warm Regards,
Tyler Bloom



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Upcoming Schedule of Events

Tuesday, December 12: MAAGCS Annual Meeting, Argyle Country Club, Silver Spring, MD

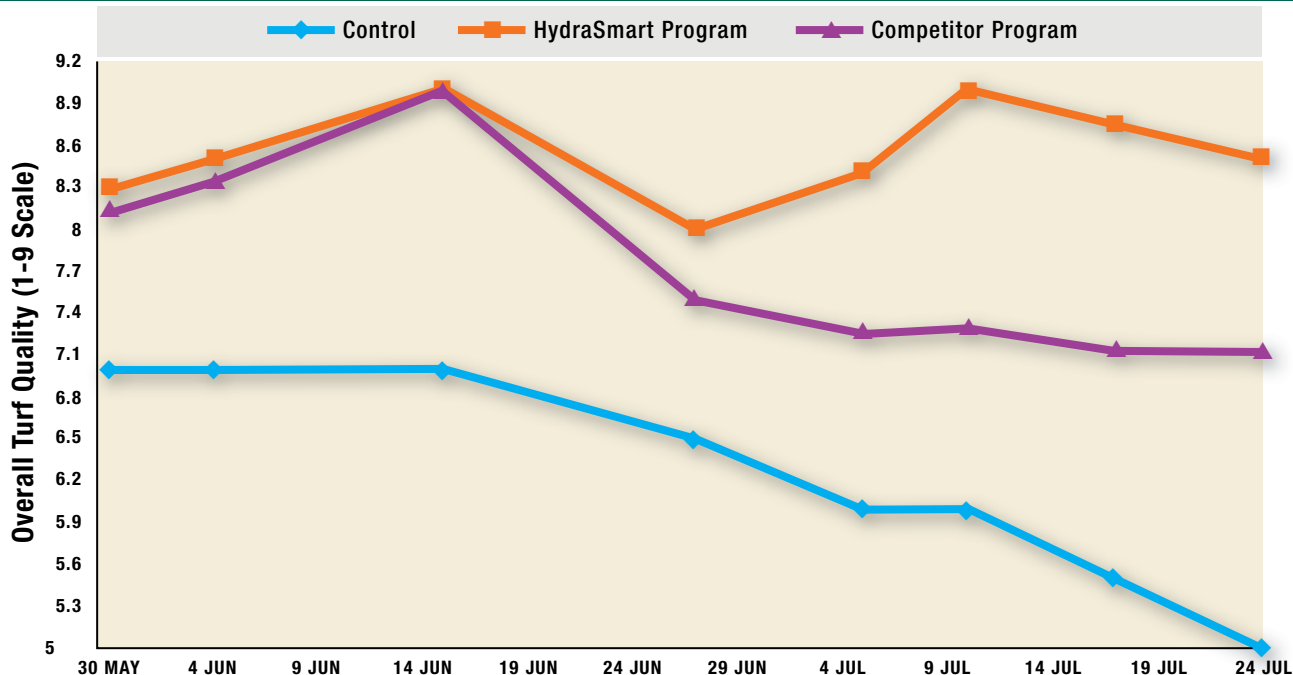
February 3-8, 2018: Golf Industry Show, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, TX

Wednesday, February 7, 2018: MAAGCS, VGCSA, ESAGCS Social Event at GIS, Howl at the Moon, San Antonio, TX

Wednesday, February 21, 2018: MAAGCS Education Seminar, Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville, MD

What does the research say?

CREEPING BENTGRASS PUTTING GREEN QUALITY AS IMPACTED BY FERTILIZER PROGRAM



Application Notes & Protocols:

Application Dates: 14 Day treatments; applied on 24 May, 4 and 22 June, 5 July and 17 July 2017 (Total 0.5 lb N / 1000 sq. ft. applied during trial)
Overall Quality: Quality was assessed on a 1-9 scale where 7= minimal acceptable level for putting green turf and 9= optimal quality and density.
Trial Set-Up: Before applications, putting green would be considered extremely lean as it had not received any fertility since early autumn of 2016. One of the goals was to put these treatments under stress.

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- **High Results:** Highest root development rating all summer

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