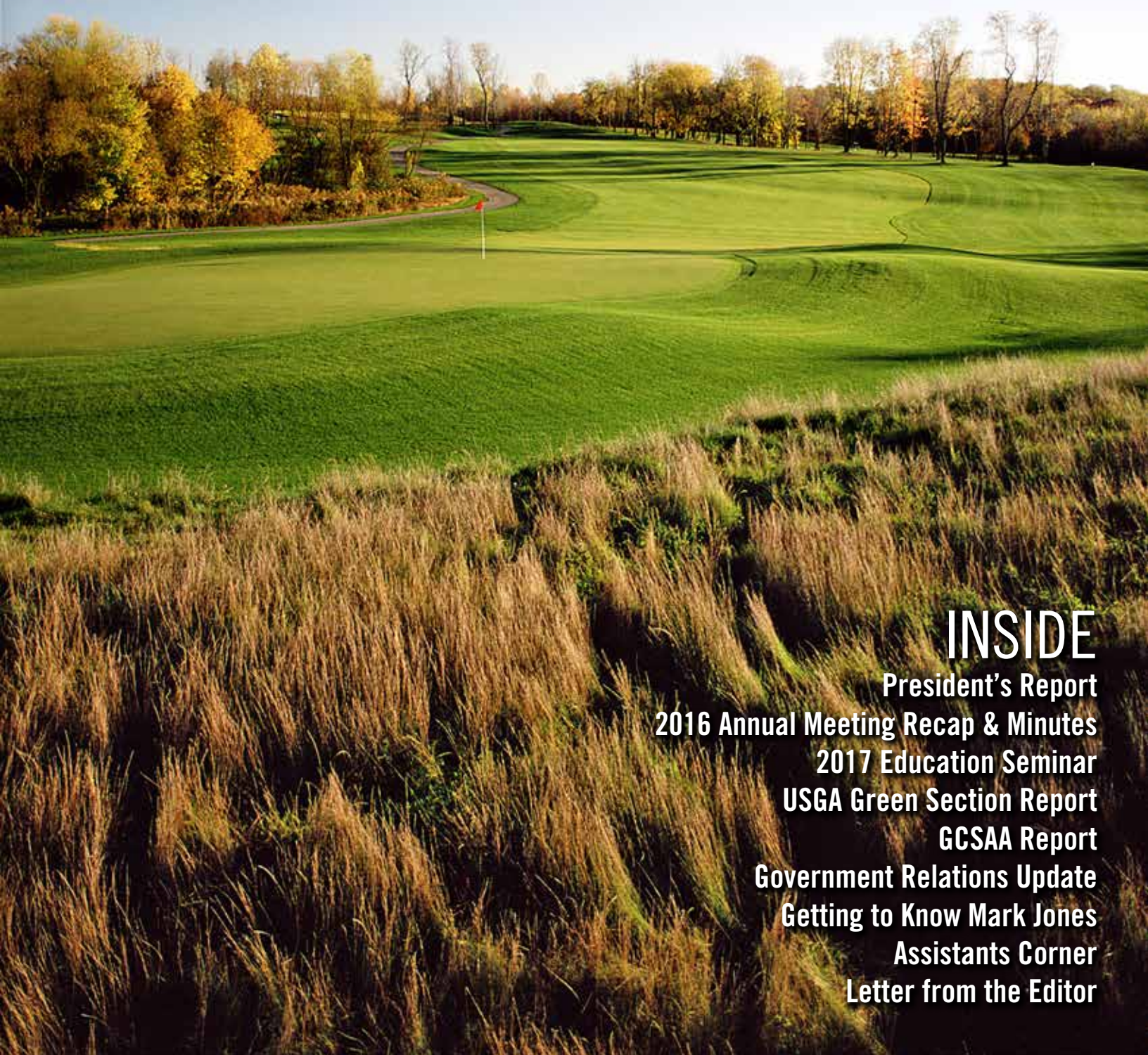




TurfgrassMatters

Winter 2017



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President's Report – Michael Bostian

I must admit it is nice to see 2016 gone and in the books. It was one of the toughest summers I have faced in the 10 years I've been at Waverly Woods Golf Club. I'm excited to serve as president of the MAAGCS for the next two years. We have a great team of directors that volunteer a lot of time and it is fun to be a part of this group. We have plenty of work to accomplish going forward.

I'm happy to announce that our association has received a \$7,500 grant from the GCSAA to continue our BMP program. This same amount was also awarded to the Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents, one of our partners for this project. These two grants combined with the additional funds raised at the The Stewards of the Chesapeake events will allow us to roll this program out soon. We would also like to thank our allied association, MSGA, MAPGA and NCGOA Mid-Atlantic for their support! Our state BMP will, most likely, be the first to follow the national's template for BMPs. The GCSAA has announced a goal of having all 50 states adopting their BMP template by the year 2020.

We are going to need support this year from our membership in a whole new manner. There are a few community outreach projects we have scheduled this year and the more professionals we have to serve as volunteers and advisors will help make these great events.

This year for the 10th anniversary of National Golf Day, superintendents from around the immediate area will serve as team leaders for volunteers to complete various projects at The National Mall. The board is excited to work with Michael Stachowicz of the National Park Service and members of the National GCSAA to complete some community service on April 25th, the day before National Golf Day. Previously, we were simply asked to put a display together in the Rayburn foyer showcasing the tools of the trade. This year We Are Golf will be using this foyer to showcase the health and wellness benefits of golf.

In 2017 the board will continue to be involved with the First Green and The First Tee STEM on a local level to help encourage participation in golf for the next generation. Who knows where it will lead, but more golfers, or new employees and possibly even new students can never be a bad thing for us. It is a unique experience to watch young children experience a golf course for the first time. Our initiative with these events even reaches out to the parents and chaperones, and goes a long way in helping communicate our positive message about golf and the environment. The parents are as amazed as the students that we take all these variables into account when making simple daily decisions. If anyone has an interest in getting involved with these events or National Golf Day, please reach out to me or anyone on the board and we will make sure that you have the support you need to host a successful event.

Please remember to keep your Equipment Managers in mind to start this season. At this time of the year they are setting us up for a successful season and making sure our teams can run efficiently. I encourage our superintendent members to add them as MAAGCS members this year. Our equipment managers should be provided the same resources we have been afforded to help them advance in their careers, improve operations at our facilities and strengthen our membership.

In closing, I want thank all of our vendors and sponsors. Our members should be taking advantage of the representatives that ask to meet with us. All of these professionals see more turf than we do in a year and most, if not all of them, have spent time in our shoes and they have a lot more to offer aside from equipment or products. Please make sure to thank them for not only supporting this association, but for helping us through the day to day operations at our facilities.

Cheers to a great 2017 season and I look forward to seeing you in Orlando or at our ever popular educational seminar on February 22nd.



Michael Bostian
Waverly Woods Golf Club
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msboss4@hotmail.com



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2016 Annual Meeting Recap

The Annual Meeting at Baltimore Country Club was a success. The members enjoyed the beautiful holiday decorations at the club, as well as, a wonderful lunch.

Outgoing president, Chris Harriman, gave a heartfelt speech on his time served as president and indicated he is looking forward to incoming president, Mike Bostian, continuing the growth and success of the association. Mike is excited to serve as president and is especially grateful for all of those who have supported him throughout his entire career.

Chris Fernandes was voted into the office of secretary, while Ryan Kraushofer will move to the vice president/treasurer position. Joe Haskins was voted to serve a second term as a director, and Chris Sandels was voted to serve as a director. Mark Jones is the new assistants representative, and Matt Harvey has been appointed to the board as the assistant superintendent committee member. Ted Huhn will take over as IAC representative, while Sam Camuso will assist with Ted's transition.

Proposed changes in the bylaws included changes in reference to "Class SM" changing to "Class B", the addition of the new Equipment Manager Class and changes to the board make-up allowing for a Class C member to serve as a director on the board. All proposed changes to the bylaws were approved.



Chris Harriman



Stacey Kingsbury



Mike Bostian and Chris Harriman

Doug Hall Wins the Annual Championship!

The 2016 MAAGCS Annual Championship was held at Cattail Creek. The golf course was in perfect condition and host Superintendent Chris Harriman delivered a set up that was a true test for the players. The greens were rolling fast, pins were tucked and putts were hard to make. Congratulations to Doug Hall of Eagle's Nest for edging out the field in the superintendent division and posting the low gross score 83. J.C. Clevenger of Seeton Turf Warehouse won the Open division with score of 81. The top three net scores in the superintendent division were tied at 76 and Ryan Kraushofer claimed first place after a score card playoff ahead of Ralph Meola and Steven Thomas. In the open division, Tim Davisson finished with a net 73, just ahead of Bo Jumbercotta's 74 and Todd Cowing's 75. A big thank you goes out to all of the sponsors and to Cattail Creek for making this a fun day.



Joe Haskins and Doug Hall

Annual Meeting Minutes - December 7, 2016



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Location:

Baltimore Country Club

Present:

Chris Harriman, President; Mike Bostian, Vice President/Treasurer; Ryan Kraushofer, Secretary; Mike Barrett, CGCS. Past President; Joe Haskins, Golf; Chris Fernandes, Member Services; Galen Evans, Education; Tyler Bloom, Newsletter; Jay Nalls, Government Relations; Chris Sandels, Assistants Representative; Sam Camuso, IAC Representative; David Norman, Chapter Executive; Tyler Eastham, Chapter Executive, and MAAGCS Members.

Call to Order:

President Chris Harriman called the meeting to order at 1:06pm.

Officer's Reports:

President: President Chris Harriman began the Annual Meeting with a "Year in Review" highlighting the success of the events throughout 2016 and thanks our partners.

Request for Amendments to 2015 Minutes/Agenda: None

Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes: Chris made a request for approval and Mike Barrett and Chris Fernandes seconded

Golf: Golf Chairman Joe Haskins presented golf awards for the winners of this year's biggest tournaments. The Rick Fritz Award to Tim Davisson, Rick Wakefield Award to Doug Hall, Craig Swinney Award to Ryan Kraushofer and the Doug Witcraft Award to J.C. Clevenger. Joe also presented, awards for MAAGCS season long match-play tournament – The overall winners Scott Cornwell and Patrick McNamara were not in attendance.

Education: Education Chairman Galen Evans presented this year's scholarship winner:

- Stan Zontec Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500: Brady Scales

Government Relations: Secretary Ryan Kraushofer gave an update in Eric David's absence

- WOTUS – the rule is in a stay in the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals until further notice
- Department of Labor Rule – preliminary injunction has been issued by Judge Amos Mazzant from Eastern Texas.
 - ◆ 21 States had filed suit against the DOL about the rule.

- ◆ The injunction could be challenged in court. Or, congress could defund the rule through appropriations and it would be unlikely the Trump administration would challenge.
- ◆ Immigration and Labor – There is a possibility of H-2B reform that would allow for and expand returning worker exemption. The exemption allows workers with seasonal positions to return within three years to be exempt from the lengthy application process.
- FIFRA – Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act
 - ◆ The golf and Agricultural industries have proposed a more "risk based" approach to the law, incorporating sound science and research as the base for regulation.
 - ◆ There is a proposal to revise the Pesticide Certification Application Rule but the concern is that the EPA will have more control over certification than the states. If the states are unable to continue the certification process, education and training could decrease. The rule is not final and President-Elect Trump could kill the legislation or Congress could defund the rule.

GCSAA Business Update/Chapter Delegates Report:

Secretary Ryan Kraushofer gave an update to include an update on Dues Increases, Rounds 4 Research, Membership, Equipment Managers, International Members, Government Relations, and GCSAA Elections. Key points in the report include:

- GCSAA dues increase by \$5 for classes A,B,C
 - ◆ In 2006 Chapter delegates approved a CPI based dues increase to keep dues increases smaller but more frequent.
 - ◆ The last dues increase was 2015.
 - ◆ Everyone was in favor of the dues increase.
- Rounds 4 Research
 - ◆ Continues to grow and raised \$52,000 more this year compared to 2015.
- GCSAA Membership
 - ◆ Down 1.29% in 2016.
 - ◆ Pushing for 20,000 members by 2020.
 - ◆ GCSAA would like to offer discounted dues for multi course operators.
 - They received a lot of push back from other chapters.
 - Everyone wants to make sure this won't hurt the total revenue in the long run but GCSAA couldn't show anything on paper to back it.
 - This would require a bylaws change in Article 2 Section 1.
 - MAAGCS board is against this change until GCSAA can show more evidence that this would make the association grow.
- Equipment Managers
 - ◆ Currently 606 GCSAA EQ Managers.
 - ◆ GCSAA is updating 6 certificates and adding 2 new certificates which are metal working and agronomics.

- ◆ GCSAA partners with R&R to help recruit new Equipment Managers. If you sign up you EM with GCSAA and they sign up and pass a certificate then R&R will reimburse your dues on your next order.
- ◆ Proposed EM Bylaws Change.
 - Currently Reads - To qualify for Equipment Manager membership; an applicant shall be employed as an equipment manager, assistant equipment manager or mechanic/technician within the golf industry and shall have such rights of the Association as the Board of Directors may specify by Standing Rules, except those of voting and holding office.
 - ▲ Change – Remove “within the golf industry”.
 - ▲ MAAGCS is for this change – trying to increase EM members.
- International Members – Bylaws Change
 - ◆ Currently reads – An applicant shall be employed outside of the United States as a superintendent or head greenskeeper and shall be required to maintain a membership in his/her recognized “home” organization, if one exists. International Superintendent Members shall have such rights of the Association as the Board of Directors may specify by Standing Rules, except those of voting and holding office.
 - ◆ Change To - An applicant shall be employed outside of the United States ~~as a superintendent or head greenskeeper and shall be required to maintain a membership in his/her recognized “home” organization, if one exists.~~ International Superintendent Members shall have such rights of the Association as the Board of Directors may specify by Standing Rules, except those of voting and holding office.
 - ▲ MAAGCS is for this change – trying to increase members.
 - ◆ Currently 244 Grassroots Ambassadors – would like 535 by 2020
 - ◆ National Golf Day was a success last year opening it up to superintendents from all across the country. GCSAA was the most represented out of all the allied associations.
 - ◆ National Golf Day will be April 26, 2017
 - ◆ GCSAA is rolling out a National BMP Template at GIS. MAAGCS will be one of the first chapters to use the template.
 - ◆ Political Action Committee
 - GCSAA is forming a PAC committee – a group of individuals with a common interest who want to advance a specific political agenda by contributing to candidates who share their views.
 - Anyone can donate up to \$5,000 per year.
 - This will not affect the fundraising efforts of EIFG since the target donors are different than those of the EIFG.
 - No money from GCSAA budget or funds will go to support the PAC but they can cover the operating costs of the PAC without using donation money.
 - PAC won't impact member dues and GCSAA can't take a portion of dues to put towards a PAC.
 - The PAC will give GCSAA better opportunities to lobby in Washington for the golf industry.
- ◆ Elections
 - Secretary/Treasurer
 - ▲ John Fulling, CGCS – Michigan or Rafael Barajas, CGCS – Florida
 - ▲ MAAGCS will be voting for Rafael Barajas which means John Fulling will have to be nominated from the floor to fill the remaining year of Rafael Barajas' term.
 - Board of Directors – Three Open Positions
 - ▲ **Mark Jordan, CGCS – Ohio – MAAGCS Vote**
 - ▲ **Jeffrey Millies, CGCS – Wisconsin – MAAGCS Vote**
 - ▲ **Kevin Sunderman – Florida – MAAGCS Vote**
 - ▲ Jeff White, CGCS – Kansas
 - ▲ John Walker – Texas
 - ▲ Rory Van Poucke – Arizona

Bylaws Changes:

Class SM to be changed to Class B, a Class C member can be elected as a director on the board and the Equipment Managers Class Section to be added. Motion was made by Scott Wunder and Mike Barrett 2nd. All in favor – approved.

Elections:

Elections ballots were passed out and results consisted of Chris Fernandes being elected into an officer's position. Joe Haskins was voted to serve a second term as director and Chris Sandels was voted to serve as a director. Mike Barrett has served his final year on the board and has stepped down as past president. He was presented with a plaque from President Chris Harriman. President Chris Harriman will be moving to Past President and Mike Bostian will take his place as incoming President.

Address of Incoming President:

New President Mike Bostian made remarks on his vision of the association going forward. He also thanked Chris Harriman for an outstanding job as President the past two years, and he presented him with a special award.

Meeting Adjourned:

2:30pm

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2017 Education Seminar – Wednesday, February 22



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Dr. David McCall



Steve McDonald



Dr. Joseph Roberts



The MAAGCS hosts its annual Education Seminar in February and it features some of the best educators from around the country. Join us at Ten Oaks Ballroom (500 Signal Bell Lane, Clarksville, MD 21029) on Wednesday February 22, 2017. There will be breakfast, an ice cream break, and a beer and wine social following the event. Education Credits will be available so be sure to sign up early since this event always sells out!

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- + More Certifications will be added!

Schedule

- 6:45-7:30 **Breakfast and Registration**
- 7:30-7:45 **President Mike Bostian**
Opening Remarks
- 7:45-8:45 **Dr. Bill Kreuser, University of Nebraska**
Predicting PGR Performance
- 8:45-9:45 **Dr. Michelle DaCosta, University of Massachusetts**
Exploiting Turf Physiological Strategies to Enhance Summer Stress Tolerance
- 9:45-10:15 **Morning Break**
- 10:15-11:15 **Dr. Stuart Cohen, Environmental and Turf Services**
How to Talk About Turf Chemical Risks in Your Community
- 11:15-12:15 **Dr. David McCall, Virginia Tech**
Reducing pesticide and irrigation inputs through better scouting and record keeping
- 12:15-1:15 **Lunch Break**
- 1:15-2:15 **Steve McDonald, Turfgrass Disease Solutions**
Plant Protection and Fertilizer Observations in 2016: A Challenging Year
- 2:15-2:45 **Ice Cream Break**
- 2:45-3:45 **Dr. Joseph Roberts, University of Maryland**
Overview of Turfgrass Microbiology and the Impact of Turfgrass Management Practices
- 3:45-5:00 **Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-certification Application, then Beer and Wine Social**



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Nematode Control Methods

Despite 2016 starting with a relatively mild winter and an early transition into summer, the year ended with numerous biotic and abiotic stresses wreaking havoc on turfgrass. In many cases, attempts to diagnose a single plant stressor as the cause for the overall decline was challenging. This was difficult because plant stressors often produce detrimental plant responses collectively rather than individually.

Biotic pests affecting turf health are strongly correlated to turfgrass stress (abiotic). Moreover, turfgrass can experience abiotic stress, such as from drought or heat, without experiencing disease; but, disease problems rarely occur without abiotic stress. Additionally, very few if any fungicides by themselves will significantly reduce abiotic stress. The 2016 season was a great example of this; much of the turf decline resulted from a combination of biotic and abiotic stresses during a prolonged period of poor weather. Even populations of pests that typically would not cause turf decline did because of the intense abiotic stress.

During the search for answers, nematodes garnered a lot of attention as a possible cause for putting green decline. On greens with decline, nematode assays indicated there was no strong correlation between turf health and nematode populations. Some greens contained high nematode counts and were in good health, while greens with decline contained low counts. In fact, damaging nematodes can show up at very high numbers on healthy putting greens or even greens that were just treated with a nematicide. This left some scratching their head or searching for another lab to confirm that diagnosis.

With all of this said, nematodes are still important to monitor, but there are few pests we deal with that are more complex to monitor and manage than nematodes. When looking at nematodes, it is important to remember that their populations rise and fall with weather and growth of turfgrass, and nematode counts are not always indicative of nematode problems.

Nematode populations can reach damaging populations due to a number of factors such as weather, soil structure, soil moisture, plant health, turfgrass species, soil microbial populations, other plant-parasitic nematodes, and so on. These variables can affect both nematode populations and turf health, making the conclusions around nematode thresholds very dynamic and challenging.

Before committing to an expensive preventative nematicide program, consider implementing a nematode sampling program. Keep good notes with regards to weather conditions, existing disease issues, and any stresses of concern. Season-long nematode sampling will allow you to correlate how environmental conditions at your facility affect nematode populations over time. This site-specific testing will help you better gauge damage thresholds for your facility.

So what is the ideal method for conducting season-long nematode sampling?¹

1. Select three putting greens (but the more the better) for sampling. Ideally, select your best, average, and poorest performing greens.
2. Each green should have approximately 20, half to one-inch diameter, three-inch deep soil plugs removed in a systematic grid pattern, ideally on five foot centers, across the entire green and placed into a single bag. Do not use a random sampling pattern because consistency in sampling is critical.
3. Conduct this sampling technique in the spring after soil temperatures are conducive for active turf growth. The early-season nematode population numbers will indicate whether there is a likelihood of nematode related issues later in the season.



Addison Barden

USGA Green Section Agronomist
abarden@USGA.org



continued on page 22



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GCSAA Report – Chase Rogan

Help Wanted – Cultivating Young Professionals

GCSAA is often asked what we are doing to recruit new talent in to the field, as well as what value are we providing to Student members. Did you know that a Student member can maintain a Student Membership for up to 24 months after graduation, so long as the student is not in a golf course management role? It's true.

Furthermore, students have access to live and on-demand webinars. They have access to the job board, valuable scholarship opportunities, and an important resume critiquing service which can prove vital in landing the right job.

With regard to GIS, students are entitled to a free full registration, student hotel room block (special rates), 50% discount off member pricing for seminars, access to student booth area, free professional headshots, and a student reception event.

In 2017, GCSAA is taking the following steps to enhance student engagement: Student Recruitment before college: GCSAA staff will participate at high school, FFA National Conference and Tradeshow, Vocational Tech School career day events to inform students of golf industry careers. We will provide superintendents tools (Marketing packets and Powerpoint presentations) to engage with students at their local career events. GCSAA staff will participate in First Green and First Tee events across the country.

Mentorship Program: By engaging students with assistant superintendents and superintendents this program will facilitate career growth and upward mobility. This will be a software platform that will allow them to engage in a private arena to facilitate open communication.

Internship Program: GCSAA will provide superintendents the tools to create active learning environments for students. Students will be provided with checklists for a productive internship experience. GCSAA will provide the means for them to communicate and reach each other.

Student List serve: Students will be supplied with a Listserve communication tool. This will enable them to directly receive information that is pertinent to them. Student events, student internships, and networking opportunities will be communicated through the Listserve. They will also be able to network and engage with students across the globe.

Student Chapter Engagement: GCSAA will be making visits to Universities and Colleges that have GCSAA Student Chapters. We will offer speakers and educational content that they can choose from for their Turf Club meetings. We will be working with the GCSAA Affiliated Superintendent Chapter to engage them with their Student Chapter.

As we look forward, GCSAA will continue to enhance these programs as to guarantee the success of our field heading to the future.



Chase Rogan

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

New Membership Category: Equipment Manager

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendent's is excited to announce a new membership opportunity for Equipment Managers. As superintendents we all know how important a readily available network is, so our main goal with this initiative is to improve communication and networking opportunities for Equipment Managers.

By bolstering our local networks of EMs and then using the resources that GCSAA is providing (online blogs, webcasts and one free admission to the GIS) we have a great opportunity to once again improve the overall quality of our facilities and help the people who run them grow and progress.

Help support the association and find another way to improve your facility by having your EM sign up today. Visit www.maagcs.org for information and upcoming events.

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Government Relations Update – Eric David

Now that the election is over, we can start to move on from what has been a difficult campaign process. While the outcome was different than predicted by the national polls, the new administration could be friendlier to the golf industry. The fiscal year 2017 budget has been moved back to after the inauguration in January. Some of the issues concerning our industry have the potential to be defunded in the process.

The Waters of the United States (WOTUS) could be amended or totally repealed by removing appropriations. Congress will decide in the beginning of the year.

The Department of Labor overtime rule has already been put into suspension by a federal judge in Texas and is unlikely to be challenged by the incoming administration. Many courses would not have been affected by this legislation, because the markets are driving the salary for industry. Proper talent cannot be recruited if wages are too low, so courses have to be willing to pay more in order to fill positions.

What do we know about the new administration? This question has been posed to the individuals closest to the political madness, such as Chava Mckeel and Bob Helland from GCSAA, as well as Joe Miedusiewski, our local lobbyist. The answer I received from them was “we have no idea how this new administration is going to govern.” Since the change is so radical and President Trump has no political track record, there is no way to predict how he will handle the new presidency. How will he react to individual issues in our country? The attitude so far has very much been wait and see, before our association moves forward.

There is discussion about creating a Political Action Committee (PAC) at the GCSAA National level, which I believe is a good way to have our interests heard. The political landscape has been changed and this is one way to keep our industry up with the times. There is a lot of optimism about the new administration being friendly to our industry, and hopefully that will hold true. For now, we sit and wait.



Eric David
edavid@bcc1898.com

First Green Takes Off in Mid-Atlantic

At the conclusion of the First Green field trip at Westminster National Golf Course, the invigorated fifth-grade students putted golf balls and mounted turf equipment, persistent in their quest to test drive the unfamiliar but intriguing power machines. As for those of us teaching the labs, we were tired. Throughout the day we got to talk to 100 students from Spring Garden Elementary about applied STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education within the context of golf.

Over the course of five hours, two separate groups of 50 kids arrived at Westminster to participate in a rotation of labs focusing on water conservation, math, golf and the environment, equipment and putting. We talked about wildlife habitat, calculating area, soil

moisture, watersheds, living filters, and simply golf.

For most, it was their first introduction to the game, and what a great introduction it was. For them to learn about our industry, for them to learn about applied science in the outdoors, for them to experience something new, that is what First Green is all about.

And the success of the day was appropriately summed up when one student told us he'd enjoyed the trip to the golf course better than the trip to planetarium because, well, he got to hit golf balls. And maybe, unbeknownst to him or us, he found his future career.

Special thanks to the MAAGCS and Finch

Services, who provided the day's equipment display.



Superintendent and MAAGCS Past President Chris Harriman teaches kids applied math.

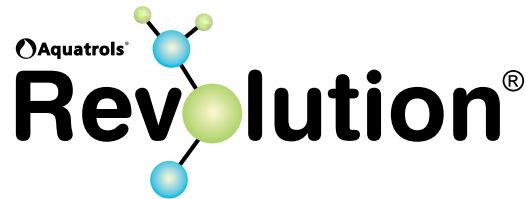


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Getting to Know Mark Jones



MAAGCS Board of Directors

**West Course Assistant Superintendent
Baltimore Country Club
2016–Present**

**Rutgers University
Turfgrass Science Degree**

Mark Jones

mjones@bcc1898.com

@speedyjones89

How did you get into your current position?

Last year, I was made aware that there might be a possible assistant's position opening at Baltimore Country Club. I took the initiative to meet Tim Kennelly at the 2015 December Annual Meeting. I introduced myself and told him that I was interested in the position if one became available. We exchanged information and he invited me to the facility to check it out. This led to two more interviews and Tim then offered me the position.

Where did you go to school?

I attended Rutgers University in 2009 and graduated in 2010.

What excites you about the future of our profession?

I am excited to see how technology will be able to advance our work in the field. For instance, when I started we wrote the list of jobs on dry erase boards and now everything is done using my computer and smartphone. Even something as simple as taking a picture has evolved into so much more with the use of drone capabilities. It seems like the possibilities are endless.

What do you like most about your job?

I really like the diverse challenges I encounter with working on a golf course and finding new ways to accomplish them. Every day is different and presents the opportunity to learn.

What new ideas do you plan to bring to the MAAGCS in your new role?

I would like to give the assistants more of a hands-on experience during the meetings so they can utilize certain skills out in the field the next day. I hope to provide multiple opportunities for the assistants to network with one another for exchanging information, job opportunities, and overall communication.

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Syngenta Business Institute 2016

Golf course superintendents continue to have an increasing responsibility to not only deliver outstanding turf conditions, but to also possess excellent business and managerial skills, which is why Syngenta is committed to helping them enhance their business acumen.

For the eighth consecutive year, Syngenta hosted its annual business development program, the Syngenta Business Institute™ (SBI), for 26 of the industry's top superintendents December 5-8. Through SBI, Stephanie Schwenke, turf market manager, and Mark LaFleur, communications lead for turf and landscape, have struck a harmonious chord between education and camaraderie.

Tyler Bloom, Sparrows Point Country Club, and Eric David, Baltimore Country Club, represented the Mid-Atlantic at this year's event. Both of them raved about the camaraderie, educational platforms and networking opportunities.

"This event exceeded my expectations," said Tyler Bloom, golf course superintendent and property manager at Sparrows Point Country Club in Baltimore, Maryland. "It is very different than other educational events. You are able to interact with superintendents from across the country, and working with the world-leading faculty at Wake Forest was incredible."

For eight years, Syngenta has hosted SBI at the historic Graylyn Estate in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The event includes seminars taught by first-class instructors from the Wake Forest University School of Business, which is renowned for its nationally-ranked MBA executive business program. With nearly 100 applicants from across the country in 2016, only 26 were selected to attend. Each participant received all-expenses-paid travel and accommodations plus first-class education. "This event shows what Syngenta's values are," said Bloom. "By investing in the program, it shows that they want superintendents to succeed."

Participants were also able to connect with each other and program alumni via a mobile app and through Twitter using the hashtag #SBI16. As the superintendents shared their experiences throughout the week, #SBI16 began trending and broke into the top ten trending topics nationally. Over the course of the week, SBI provides a collaborative setting with a strong business management curriculum that includes financial management, human resources management, delegation skills, effective communications, negotiation tactics and more.



Golf course superintendents can apply for the 2017 Syngenta Business Institute that will take place December 4-7, 2017.

Approximately 25 superintendents will be selected to participate in this elite program.

To be considered, candidates must fill out an application, which includes a short essay on why you should be selected to attend SBI. Beginning **March 1, 2017**, the application is available online at GreenCastOnline.com/SBI.

Completed SBI applications are due by Tuesday, August 15, 2017, but may be submitted starting March 1. Participants will be notified of their acceptance into the 2017 Syngenta Business Institute class in October.



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Nortica helps reduce emerging Nematode larva, thus decreasing surviving adult.



Assistants Corner – Mark Jones

I wanted to start my first article by introducing myself and giving everyone a brief background. Golf has always been a part of my family. I started playing the game at the age of 12 with the dreams of being a PGA pro one day. My father and I became members at the local golf club down the road, Piney Branch Golf Club. Then one day my father told me that we would no longer be members. I would have to find a way to pay for my golfing by my own means. I realized that playing for free was an incentive for working on the golf course. Little did I know, 10 years later this was a key career moment.

In the summer of 2006, I began working on the crew and as years passed and high school was over, I realized I could see myself doing this as a career. The superintendent of Piney Branch, Scott Wunder, informed me of Rutgers University's two-year turf program. I enrolled in 2009 and graduated in 2010. After graduation, I landed my first assistant superintendent position at Hillendale Country Club. I worked under Brad Novotny for three years. I could see firsthand what it was like to be a new superintendent. We faced and overcame some difficult challenges and I learned key skills that I'm able to implement daily. My time spent at Hillendale Country Club was an experience I will never forget.

In the beginning of 2016, a dream of mine came true. I was offered the position of assistant superintendent of the West Course for Baltimore Country Club. Working for a top-rated golf course in our area was always a goal of mine. I needed to prove to myself that I can succeed in a demanding and rewarding environment. The season of 2016 was a complete test of just that. I look forward to getting to know everyone and having the opportunity to network with you all. My goal is to keep up involvement with the association. Ideally, I'd also like to plan events, such as educational seminars or hands-on workshops to learn new skills or techniques that can be applied to the job. Education is so vital to what we do and everyone has the ability to advance and learn new things, especially from one another.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments, or need advice. I'm always available and happy to help!



Mark Jones
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Recapping the Assistants Meeting at TopGolf, Loudon

MAAGCS kicked off the 2017 event schedule with an assistants meeting at TopGolf, Loudon. It was just days after a snowstorm and the weather was surprisingly warm making for a perfect afternoon. Four teams of six players competed in the TopGolf game and the winning team was determined by totaling each player's scores over both games. Taking home the winning honors was the team made up of Chris Sandels (Chevy Chase Club), Leo Gottgens (Columbia Country Club), Steven Smith (Columbia Country Club), Andrew Harrison (Pocono Turf), Chase Rogan (GCSAA) and Josh Weaver (Trump National Golf Club). Steven Smith had the highest overall single

score at 238. Keep an eye out for more assistants meetings throughout the year,

these are excellent events to network and have some fun!



Chase Rogan, Josh Weaver, Leo Gottgens, Chris Sandels, Andrew Harrison, Steven Smith



Steven Smith

Biotic Pests — Continued from page 11

4. If numbers are high during the early-season assay, additional sampling will be needed at the mid-point of the season. While monthly sampling is not a necessity, it can allow you to monitor population changes so they can be correlated to changes in turf health and other variables.
5. Always submit samples to the same lab so that sampling techniques and tools remain consistent. Extraction methods and tools can vary greatly from lab to lab so consistency is important.

If you suspect nematodes have caused visible damage on your greens, a localized, precision sampling technique may be needed to determine if nematodes are the cause, or contributor, of turf decline.

1. Use a cup cutter to remove a soil core, approximately three-inches deep, from the edge of the area of turf decline. Removing a sample from the edge offers the opportunity for collecting nematodes.
2. On the same green, remove another soil core, approximately three-inches deep, in an area with no visible turf decline to act as a control comparison.

Plant-parasitic nematodes rarely show above-ground damage to healthy turfgrass because turfgrass plants are able to outgrow most nematode feeding. However, prolonged heat and humidity, such as that experienced last summer, can weaken putting green turf to the point where even low populations of nematodes, potentially coupled with non-symptomatic stressors, can begin to create visible turf decline. Most problems are a combination of factors. Therefore, avoid letting one year of poor weather and turf decline convince you that a preventative nematicide program is needed. Instead, regularly submit nematode samples to the same lab so you can gain a better understanding of the complex nature of nematode populations.



¹ Mitkowski, Nathaniel. "Nematode Sampling." Golf Course Superintendent Factsheet Series. vol. 4, no. 1, 2008. University of Rhode Island. <http://www.uriturf.org/publications/urifactsheetvol4no1.pdf>

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Letter from the Editor – Tyler Bloom

Dear Members,

Do you find value in your professional association? Every now and then I am reminded of the importance of professionalism in my daily interactions and efforts. By no means am I the poster child for that term, but I've benefited from the mentorships and experts in the MAAGCS. As I reflect on 2016 and look forward to 2017, I have a great deal of gratitude to this specific association.

I know I have said it before, but the MAAGCS is stacked with all-stars and a who's who list of incredible resources. There's been a number of industry leaders, who have helped pave the way for future success in our own backyard. Mr. Paul R. Latshaw is being recognized by the GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award for his contributions to our industry and setting the bar high. He's certainly not the only one who has improved the professional image of our industry, but he certainly impacted many circles.

What profession has the type of support systems that we have in the turf industry? Our national association continues to improve the culture of education, and empowers local associations to foster a similar message. Our local vendors are supportive in numerous ways not just in products, but their vision to enhance status quo. The continued research and advanced tools to improve our effectiveness in our jobs continues to adapt and stay current.

The financial and environmental climates that we work under are challenging and complex. Navigating through uncertain times, changing committees and increasing expectations is quite a skill to develop. Our profession thrives in these situations, as many people demonstrate grit, perseverance and passion to succeed. The volunteer efforts for tournaments, advocacy programs, environmental awareness and outreach programs is unparalleled. I can't think of too many professions that support each other and bring this level of commitment to their craft.

Every now and then I find myself in situations that challenge the ideology of our professionalism. I believe many of you can relate, because our profession has given much – relationships, friendships, feeling of success and ambition to serve others. As we continue to grow, so does the standards of excellence and the bar gets higher.

As you re-focus your efforts and vision for 2017, keep in mind the resources you have in place. There's opportunities to get involved and be a part of something special. The annual educational seminar in February is an easy way to reward staff or get them excited for the upcoming season. The assistant superintendent programs continue to drive participation and engagement. The scholarship program can be a great way to connect and promote your staff members. Let the MAAGCS be a platform for you and your staff to grow in 2017.

Warm Regards,
Tyler Bloom - Newsletter Editor



Tyler Bloom

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Upcoming Schedule of Events

February 4th-9th: GCSAA Conference & Golf Industry Show, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL

Wednesday, February 8th: MAAGCS, VGCSA, ESAGCS Social Event, The DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando SeaWorld, Orlando, FL

Tuesday, February 14th: Assistants Event, The Timbers at Troy, Elkridge, MD

Wednesday, February 15th: Equipment Managers Meeting, TESCO, Jessup, MD

Wednesday, February 22nd: MAAGCS Education Seminar, Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville, MD

March, TBD: Equipment Managers Meeting, Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, MD

Thursday, March 16th: MAAGCS March Madness Social, World Of Beers, Towson, MD

April - October: MAAGCS Match Play Championship, Various Locations

Thursday, April 20th: Superintendent/Assistant Challenge - Shooting Star Shotgun Sports, Glenn Dale, MD


Wednesday, April 26th: National Golf Day, Nations Capital, Washington, DC



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