

TurfgrassMatters

FALL 2021

INSIDE:

Annual Meeting Registration
Presidents Update
Equipment Manager Update
Stewards of the Chesapeake Recap
Annual Championship Recap
Match Play Championship

Golf Industry Show
GCSAA Updates
Education Seminar Save the Date
Letter From the Editor
MAAGCS Schedule of Events
Employment Referrals
Partner Thank You



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President's Message - Chris Fernandes

Wow, the Mid Atlantic summers never let us down. You would think that after 15 years of being a Superintendent I would not be surprised with our summer weather and the numerous challenges that undoubtedly arise. I'm not going to look back and re-hash all that we all dealt with this year. I feel that all of us have just enough left in our tanks to make improvements, get our winter lists together, and prepare for the 2022 season. As we head into the fall season, make sure you take time to reflect on all of your successes over the past year, take time for family, friends, and yourself. As always, I want to say thank you to all our vendors and partners for helping us get through another summer. For myself, I look forward to getting out and seeing colleagues and friends that I wasn't able to see during the growing season.

We just wrapped up our 21st Stewards of the Chesapeake event and what an awesome occasion it was. This year's event was sold out and raised a significant amount of money that will go towards supporting local research projects, environmental efforts, and government relations as they pertain to the golf industry. It was great to see everyone out there. A huge thank you goes out to Ian Patrician and his entire staff. The golf course was stunning and played fantastic.

Our Annual Championship was held on November 1st at US Naval Academy Golf Club. The course just went through a major renovation and Eric David and his staff had it in fantastic shape, providing a challenging test. Congratulations to Jeff Rice of Oak Creek Golf Club for winning his FIFTH consecutive Annual Championship.

The Board and I are very excited about what we have coming up. We will be focused on planning our fall and winter events such as the Annual Meeting, Golf Industry Show, and our Education Seminar. As I have heard from many this year, staffing concerns continue to be a major issue for all of us. That is why the main focus for the Board and I will be revisiting and fine-tuning Outreach and Education. This has been a top priority for some time now. With Covid causing several complications, it has been a struggle to get back on track. We will be meeting with professionals in this field to help get his initiative back on track and get our story out to the local schools and communities.

On November 30th we will have our Annual Meeting held at Rolling Road Golf Club, where Pete Wendt will be taking us through his renovation of the Blue Course at Congressional Country Club. Also upcoming will be a Facility BMP Workshop, date and time TBD.

Congratulations on a great 2021 summer season. I hope everyone continues to work hard, stay safe, and don't forget we are all in this together, so don't hesitate to reach out.

Christopher Fernandes

MAAGCS President

#GETGROWING



Chris Fernandes

Rolling Road Golf Club

443-848-8385

cfernandes@rollingroadgc.com

@Hilltop_Super



MAAGCS Annual Meeting & Elections - Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

Rolling Road Golf Club

This year's the annual meeting will be held at Rolling Road Golf Club. MAAGCS President Chris Fernandes will play host. Featured in the day will be a presentation by Pete Wendt of Congressional Country Club, the annual business meeting, scholarship presentations, golf awards and elections.

[Click here](#) to for more information and to register or sponsor the annual meeting. Contact Tyler Eastham at teastham@gmail.com or 757-329-3577 with questions.

Presented by:



Host: Chris Fernandes



Featuring: Pete Wendt

Sponsors:



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Chris Fernandes
 Rolling Road Golf Club
 443-848-8385
cfernandes@rollingroadgc.com
 @Hilltop_Super

Vice President / Treasurer

Brendan Rapp
 University of Maryland Golf Course
 240-447-9568
brapp@umd.edu
 @BrendanRapp

Secretary / Online PR

Chris Sandels
 Mount Vernon Country Club
 703-989-3102
csandels@mountvernoncc.org
 @Sandels22

Past President

Ryan Kraushofer
 Westminster National Golf Course
 443-865-3232
Westminsternationalgc@yahoo.com
 @WestNatGolf

Directors

Golf

Joe Haskins
 Renditions Golf Course
 443-865-0317
jhaskins@renditionsnolf.com
 @BWI_Gator

Education

Alejandro Baiocchi
 Woodmont Country Club
 310-424-7482
abaiocchi@woodmontcc.com
 @cc_woodmont

Newsletter

Vince DiStefano
 Musket Ridge Golf Club
 301-803-0181
v.distefano@musketridge.com

Government Relations

Eric David
 United States Naval Academy
 517-420-5647
edavid@usna.edu
 @esd327

Membership Services

Shaun O'Connor
 Timbers at Troy Golf Club
 443-520-5435
soconnor@kempersports.com

Equipment Manager Representative

Anthony Lewis
 Chevy Chase Club
 301-656-6323
alewis@chevychaseclub.org

IAC Representative

Andrew Harrison
 Pocono Turf
 443-547-0252
andrewpoconoturf@gmail.com

Staff

Chapter Executive

Tyler Eastham
 757-329-3577
teastham@gmail.com
 @MidAtlGCSAA

Chapter Executive

David Norman
 804-399-7802
dnorman008@gmail.com
 @MidAtlGCSAA



Equipment Manager Update Summer Recap

In August I had the opportunity to volunteer at the BMW Championship hosted by Caves Valley. My week was spent in Jim Sollier's shop alongside Jim Nedin where we maintained the quality of cut, made several small repairs, and shared lots of experiences. The team at Caves did a fantastic job through hot conditions and passed on lots of knowledge to a group of eager volunteers. Despite the long days, there was never a moment of boredom when I was with a group of people that share the same interest/passion. Being humble and able to share lessons learned from previous mishaps really goes a long way and I was able to bring newfound wisdom back to work the following week.

Returning to work the following week brought about the busiest stretch of the year thus far. We were fourteen days post-aeration and doing plenty of reel grinding and typical maintenance ahead of Labor Day weekend which brings about the Fall event lineup. Our preference when the remaining topdressing sand has been collected and the turf has healed is to restore the factory relief on the reels and keep our edge by backlapping every 8-10 hours of mowing. For us this keeps the quality of cut at a great level and the reel assembly is honed as one cutting system without constantly being disassembled. Adjustments tend to last longer, and we remove less material than a normal spin grind.

Speaking of reels, we were happy to host Mark Luffy for an Equipment Manager's meeting September 15th which had a solid turnout at 29 guests. Mark went into detail about all manufacturers of cutting units, their attachments, and typical troubleshooting. I found this to be particularly helpful because while the core issue is not always the cutting unit- there are ways and accessories to manipulate equipment into improving the situation. An example that Mark explained using photographs of same-day improvements is to install shouldered rollers in combination in locations where overlap is being particularly present. The hands-on portion in the afternoon allowed us to see different manufacturers reels and discuss proper setup and adjustment.

Preparing the shop alongside our typical work schedule was a welcomed task by Walter and I and we were thrilled with the comradery we're hoping to expand upon with future events. If anyone would like to recommend a topic or event, please feel free to contact me. Currently we are looking into a snow removal equipment event with a couple vendors. Looking forward to what the future has in store for us as we make our way through the Holidays!



Anthony Lewis

Chevy Chase Club

301-656-6323

alewis@chevychaseclub.org



MAAGCS Season Events Recap

Bowling, socials at dock bars, the Sixth Annual Match Play Championship, competitive golf at Queenstown, Bethesda CC, and the Naval Academy.... nobody does events better than The Mid-Atlantic Chapter! We couldn't make this happen without the continuing support from our membership. A huge thank you to all the folks who found the time to participate, and strong encouragement goes out to the members who were unable to attend an event this year. An even BIGGER thank you to our year-long partners and event sponsors for continuing to find a way to make our events the best they can be. We have built some serious momentum this season with participation and look forward to keeping the ball rolling heading into the 2022 season!



Haney, Augustine, Mueller, Kingora



Joe Haskins

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Bethesda Country Club Impresses at the Stewards of the Chesapeake

Mueller, Honey, Kingora and Augustine are Victorious!

It was a fantastic day at Bethesda Country Club for the Annual Stewards of the Chesapeake fundraiser. The day kicked off with an exciting presentation by golf course architect Richard Mandell of Pinehurst, NC. Following education, players headed to the golf course to compete in a 4-person shamble, using two best balls, net.

Host Superintendent Ian Patrican had the golf course in pristine shape with the greens rolling lightning fast. The weather was nice, however, a little on the chilly side and winds picked up with gusts of up to 15 MPH, making for a tough day. The conditions could not hold down the winning team of Mike Mueller, Mark Kingora, Corey Haney and Mike Augustine, who shot an impressive 114, edging out the second-place team of Tom Tokarski, Josh McQuade, TJ Basil and Mike Green in a scorecard playoff.

A special thank you goes out to all of the players and event sponsors that made this another successful event!

[Click here for event photos](#)



Results

Champions – Mike Mueller, Corey Haney, Mark Kingora, Mike Augustine

Closest to the Pin

#2- Scott Wunder

#9- Ryan Kraushofer

#13- Mike Williams

#17- Andrew Harrison

Long Drive

Patrick Smith

Champions - Mike Mueller, Corey Haney,
Mark Kingora, Mike Augustine



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GCSAA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



GCSAA has formed a political action committee to support members of Congress who support GCSAA's **Priority Issues Agenda**. The priority issues are approved biennially by the GCSAA Board of Directors to focus the association's policy work. Through personal and financial member investments,

GCSAAPAC seeks to provide a direct means to petition the government for the long-term viability of golf facilities. GCSAAPAC is a critical tool to help the association realize its aspiration to be recognized as the global leader in golf course management.

Why create a PAC?

By establishing a PAC, GCSAA will have a greater ability to:

- Build Congressional champions to advance the priority issues agenda.
- Gain greater access and visibility with members of Congress and establish new relationships.
- Increase GCSAA's profile with allied golf groups and continue to be a leader in golf advocacy.
- Fully integrate the association's direct and grassroots lobbying efforts.

How are PAC funds spent?

Learn more about how GCSAAPAC dollars are used to increase GCSAA's visibility and to support lawmakers who support the golf industry in the **GCSAAPAC Update**.

Who can donate to the GCSAAPAC?

By law, contributions to GCSAAPAC are limited to a restricted class of donors, including:

- Individual GCSAA members in the United States.
- GCSAA executive and administrative personnel and their families. GCSAA non-executive and non-administrative personnel and their families with limitations.
- GCSAA corporate members. Limited to the executive and administrative staff, stockholders and their families.

○ **Important note to Corporate members:** Written approval by corporation is necessary before any solicitation may occur. Please complete **Request to Solicit Corporate Members for GCSAAPAC** and return to **Bob Helland**.

- GCSAAPAC cannot accept corporate funds or donations from chapters.
- GCSAAPAC cannot accept contributions from anyone who is not a citizen of the United States.
- According to the Federal Election Commission, no person may solicit donations for GCSAAPAC on social media or in other outlets in the public domain.
- Ineligible contributions will be returned.

See the [full list of GCSAAPAC donors](#).

Want to serve on the PAC board?

GCSAAPAC will be governed by a five-member board composed of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Government Affairs Committee and three at-large members.

Fundraise for GCSAAPAC

GCSAA is making it easy for you to [help raise funds for GCSAAPAC](#).



Letter from the Editor

Greetings and salutations, I hope you enjoyed the incredible weather we had in September and October. We were overdue for this and turf everywhere is appreciating all of the optimum temperatures.

I traveled to Kansas City for the annual Chapter Delegates meeting from October 21 to 23. I was given a list of topics to consider as talking points during the meetings. I am sharing them with you and ask you for your feedback.

Labor/Workforce

1. Finding staff and competing for workers continues to be a challenge.
 - a. What creative ideas have you seen golf facilities, or other businesses use to attract employees? How could those be implemented?
2. What can GCSAA provide members/facilities to assist members in finding employees/staff?
 - a. Is there a current program that could be expanded to assist?
3. What ideas do you have to get students involved?

Career Development/Resources

1. Many turfgrass programs at colleges, universities and technical schools are seeing a student shortage. How can GCSAA assist? How can you as an active, engaged member assist?
 - a. Has anything been tried in your area to address the issue and has it been successful?
 - b. What career services can GCSAA offer to members

Phase 2&3 BMPs

1. The effort to have all 50 states with a completed BMP was accomplished in 2020. Facilities are currently working on completing their facility BMP.
 - a. How can GCSAA work with facilities to complete the project?
 - b. If you have completed your facility BMP, could you share an example of why this is valuable?
2. The third phase of BMPs may include a validation process
 - a. Do you see this as important?
 - b. If so, what steps should be included in this process?
 - c. How can we promote this to regulatory agencies?
 - d. How can we get chapters on board?

The labor shortage is a concern for every industry. Having seasonal positions to fill is our biggest challenge at Musket. We offer no benefits, no paid leave and one of the lowest hourly wages compared to other industries. (Cannot imagine why we struggle to find and retain help). I have found that offering very flexible schedules, part time hours and time off as needed keeps enough people around to get the primary maintenance done. Afternoon work, small projects, course repairs and cleaning up around the shop are harder to accomplish without fulltime staffing.

GCSAA is asking how they can help with the labor shortage. As your delegate I am being asked to bring ideas to the board or staff. My personal opinion is to use the media to advertise we are hiring and paint a picture of the good things about working outside at a golf course. I also think that all of our partners, PGA Tour, PGA of America, USGA etc, need to do more to understand our side of the industry and how they can support us through educating golfers. I know, it sounds like a long shot but it is worth a try.

The other area of focus is the BMP program. Implementing the Best Management Practices program can be tricky if an operation is having trouble just keeping staff for basic maintenance, it will be difficult to accomplish many of the goals in the BMP program. As usual the many pieces of what we do are connected and affect each other. However, every winter season is another opportunity to plan, organize and improve the operation. Having BMP's in place at the start of the season is the best way to make improvements. Shop cleanliness goals and operational BMP's can be implemented when staff return for the season and new people begin. While you are writing your facility BMP keep in mind that you can throw out the things that you are not doing.

I want to support the GCSAA to move forward on their initiatives for the adaptation of the BMP program. I agree with a validation process and suggest an email campaign that will encourage members to take on sections of the BMP program and walk them through steps toward adapting the goals.

Please consider the GCSAA's initiatives for yourself. The end game of all of this can lead to keeping more of our tools by showing that we are willing to adapt to protect the environment, maintain safe workplaces, and be good neighbors.

Thank you for reading Turfgrass Matters. We encourage you to provide feedback and submit content to us. Your opinion is important and we want to hear about what is important to you.



Vince DiStefano

Musket Ridge Golf Club

301-293-9930 x 118

v.distefano@musketridge.com



2021 Annual Championship Recap

Superintendent Eric David played host of the 2021 MAAGCS Annual Championship at US Naval Academy Golf Club. The morning was brisk with steady winds making for a tough day on the golf course.

It comes as no surprise that the winner of the 2021 MAAGCS Annual Championship is Jeff Rice of Oak Creek Golf Club. Jeff posted a gross score of 82 for his **FIFTH** consecutive title, narrowly beating Marshall Hibbs by one shot, who posted an 83. This is an impressive feat and has even been described as Bradylike, or Jordanesque. A huge congratulations goes out to Jeff for this accomplishment!

In the open division it was Brett Moore coming in with an impressive gross score of 74, the lowest of the event edging out Mike Cumberpatch by four strokes who came in with a 78.

Net prizes went to first place Paul Masimore in the Superintendent Division with a 73, second place to Joe Haskins with a 74 and third place to Gar McLamb, also with a 74. In the Open Division first net went to Micah Lippy with a 71, second place to Robert Randall with a 73 and third place to Mark Merrick with a 75.

A special thank you goes out to Eric David and his staff for hosting the event. We would also like to thank our event sponsors Noble Turf, McDonald & Sons, Capillary Concrete, Nutrien Solutions, SiteOne Golf and Finch Services, in addition to our year-long [partners](#)!

Superintendent Division

1st Gross – Jeff Rice
1st Net – Paul Masimore
2nd Gross – Marshall Hibbs
2nd Net – Joe Haskins
3rd Net – Gar McLamb



Superintendent Champion Jeff Rice
with Joe Haskins

Open Division

1st Gross – Brett Moore
1st Net – Micah Lippy
2nd Gross – Mike Cumberpatch
2nd Net – Robert Randall
3rd Net – Mark Merrick



Open Division Champion Brett Moore
with Joe Haskins

Proximities

CTP #4 – Micah Lippy – 9' 6"
CTP #7 – Robert Randall – 38 Inches
CTP #12 – Lester Tanner – 48 Feet
CTP #17 – 4' 3"
Long Drive – Kyle Trzaskos



Assistants Recap Fun at the Ballpark

Getting back to normal has been quite refreshing. Especially when it involves attending a live sporting event with colleagues and other industry professionals. Turf Equipment & Supply and Mike Huey worked together with the MAAGCS to coordinate a night for Assistant Golf Course Superintendents, to show appreciation for all their hard work and services. A meet up with the assistants and industry associates for an Orioles baseball game was the perfect way to end a summer season filled with long-hour days. Even though both teams were sitting pretty at the basement of their respective divisions, it was an exciting game, with the Orioles taking a 3-0 victory in front of just over 6,000 screaming Oriole fans.

A couple months earlier, Finch and Josh Berman coordinated with the MAAGCS and local Superintendents to send their assistants to Nationals Park to watch the Nationals vs. Phillies. With inclement weather present, the game was called after 4 innings. Great conversations were had with beverages and tasty ballpark food in the suite. Our night was capped off by a nude streaker who ran onto the field in the pouring rain and eluded security guards by jumping into the tube that holds the tarp.

Thank you to our Vendors/Sponsors for hosting such a cool night for our assistants. Thank you Assistants of the Mid-Atlantic for all you do.



Alejandro Baiocchi

Woodmont Country Club
310-424-7482
abaiocchi@woodmontcc.com
@cc_woodmont

SAVE THE DATE

2021 MAAGCS Education Seminar

Wednesday February 16, 2021 - Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD



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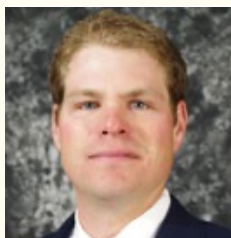
As always this will be a full day of education and will include breakfast, lunch, ice cream break and an afternoon beer and wine happy hour. There will be plenty of certifications and education credits available. So, mark your calendars for **Wednesday, February 16, 2021** to join us!



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Elliott Dowling
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Steve McDonald
Turfgrass Disease Solutions

Sponsorship Available

Event sponsorship information is listed below. All sponsorships include on-site recognition, digital promotional recognition, event registration website recognition and a mention at the event. Questions or to confirm your sponsorship, please contact Tyler Eastham at teastham@gmail.com.

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GCSAA Water Use and Conservation Practices Survey

GCSAA's Golf Course Environmental Profile surveys are very important to the profession and industry. MAAGCS encourages all superintendents to participate in the third major Golf Course Water Use and Conservation survey. Your participation will continue to enable advocacy efforts, as well as provide resources to help superintendents succeed. It is crucial that everyone participate with this survey to adequately represent all locations, facilities, etc. because we need the data (facts).

MAAGCS asks that you complete the survey as soon as possible before the **deadline of Nov. 23, 2021**.

[Click here](#) or paste this link into your browser to get started.

https://ngf.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFAYaI9x7awy386?src='http://www.maagcs.org03

Everyone who completes the survey in its entirety will automatically be entered into prize drawings. GCSAA is offering more than \$10,000 in prizes during the third series of GCEP surveys. There will be three prize winners in each of the seven U.S. agronomic regions per survey. Three randomly selected participants in first, second and third order will receive \$300, \$200, and \$100 respectively. In addition, GCSAA members will be awarded 0.50 service points for their participation. Individual survey responses will not be disclosed or used by GCSAA and results will only be published in aggregate.

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday February 9th.

GIS Social Joint with VGCSA and ESAGCS!

The Horton Grand Hotel, San Diego

Deadline to Reserve a Room is December 8th

MAAGCS, VGCSA and ESAGCS will return to The Horton Grand Hotel in the Gaslamp District for the 2022 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Room availability runs Feb. 6-12 and rates are \$191. Reservations can be made online by [clicking here](#).

This cool New Orleans style hotel will also host our annual Social Event from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9th. As always, this is a fun evening with food, drinks, music and networking. You won't want to miss it!





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MAAGCS Match Play Championship Presented by Syngenta

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Sixth Annual Match Play Championship - 2021

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(609) 580-0402
rsweeney@plantfoodco.com

MAAGCS Employment Referrals

As a service to members, the MAAGCS provides complimentary posting of jobs to MAAGCS members and Partners. Please visit [click here](#) for a complete listing and details of available positions. Here is a sampling:

[Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, VA seeks Horticulturist](#)

[Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Blue Mash Golf Course in Laytonville, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Sparrows Point Country Club in Baltimore, MD seeks Superintendent](#)

[Cutalong Golf Club at Lake Anna, VA seeks First Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Brae Burn Country Club in West Newton, MA seeks Superintendent](#)

[Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club seeks Assistant Superintendent](#)

[The Links at Challedon in Mr. Airy, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Lancaster Country Club \(PA\) seeks Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Country Club of Woodmore in Pleasant Prospect, MD seeks Equipment Manager](#)

[Job Postings](#)



MAAGCS Schedule of Events



November 8-10

GCSAA Chapter Leader Symposium

November 30, 2021: Tuesday

MAAGCS Annual Meeting, Rolling Road Golf Club

February 5-10, 2022

GCSAA Conference & Trade Show, San Diego, CA

February 6, 2022: Wednesday

MAAGCS, VGCSA, ESAGCS GIS Social

Horton Grand Hotel, San Diego, CA


February 16, 2022: Wednesday

MAAGCS Education Seminar, Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD

Golf Industry Show - February 5-10, 2022

Member Registration Open!

[Click Here for Full Info and to Register](#)

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PACKAGES	BENEFITS				PRICING	POINTS
	Unlimited access to in-person seminars Feb. 7-10	Unlimited access to in-person Power Hours Feb. 8-10	Trade show floor (exhibits and education on stages) Feb. 8-10	Unlimited access to 32 sessions of virtual education – for the entire facility Feb. 23-24 + Extended on demand (95% of education will be different than what is offered during in-person, plus crew content and more)		
ALL ACCESS	✓	✓	✓	✓	MEMBER \$1,195 NON MEMBER \$1,395	2.5
FULL PACK	Can register for seminars a la carte for additional fee per seminar	✓	✓	Additional cost equal to cost of virtual only	MEMBER INDIVIDUAL \$550 NON MEMBER INDIVIDUAL \$700	1.5 Plus additional based on number of seminars purchased
TRADE SHOW ONLY	—	—	✓	Additional cost equal to cost of virtual only	MEMBER \$400 NON MEMBER \$500	0
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