

TurfgrassMatters

SUMMER 2021



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President's Message - Chris Fernandes

If you are anything like me, by this time of year, you start counting down the days until we get to slow down a little. There are 18 days until the first NFL preseason game, 43 days until September, 52 days until NFL week 1 kickoff, 66 days until Fall, and 73 days until October. By the time you read this, there will be even less days until we hit these milestone dates.

Summer is always a crazy time for all of us, and if it's possible, it seems this summer has been busier than ever. Even though this is a stressful time of year, we have so many exciting things going on across the Mid-Atlantic. New grow-in at South River GC, bunker project at Rolling Road, the New Blue at Congressional, BMW Championship at Caves Valley, the 72nd US Girls Jr. Championship at Columbia CC and Greenspring Valley's 110th year re-opening. There are so many great efforts happening, that I can't possibly name them all. A huge shout out to all of our vendors and partners not only for supporting our day-to-day operations but for helping out with these bigger projects as well. As I'm sure this is true for all of us, our operations wouldn't run as smoothly as they do without their support.

The Mid-Atlantic Board has been working hard preparing for this upcoming fall. We have worked out some kinks with the BMP website, it is up and fully operational. There will be a BMP workshop this fall that highlights the best ways to utilize the website and resources. So let's make sure when we get some downtime, that we are all working towards our facility BMP's. I'm excited to announce that after a couple years, the UMD Turf Pathology position has finally been posted. I would also like to share that we are finalizing 2 Assistant Superintendent events in September and an Equipment Manager event on September 15th at Chevy Chase Club. Thank you to my fellow board members for working hard while I've been preoccupied with my club's summer project.

This summer has been especially difficult for me. Not only with the normal summer stresses but also the ongoing course renovation battles. I would like to thank my crew, fellow superintendents and friends for their support and guidance during this time. As we are now in the summer grind, 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

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cfernandes@rollingroadgc.com

@Hilltop_Super



SAVE THE DATE – Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Assistants Meeting & Course Tour

Assistant Superintendents are invited to attend a meeting & course tour of Congressional Country Club. Director of Golf Courses & Grounds, Pete Wendt will give an in-depth tour and discuss the massive restoration recently undergone on the championship Blue Course. This will be a great event to network with your fellow assistant superintendents and gain invaluable knowledge pertaining to the many facets that go into a complete restoration. Be on the lookout for more information and registration to open soon!



Congressional Country Club

8500 River Road

Bethesda, MD 20817

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Managing Equipment through the Summer

We're officially at the halfway point in the year until our next joyous four-month window to perform Winter equipment rebuilds. It is important to keep all golf maintenance operations going and equipment ready for use to preserve the turf's health. For instance, if we pass on sharpening a set of reels, grass will be torn or shredded instead of cut. If every rough mower isn't available operators may need to cut later into the day to keep up, which isn't ideal in the summer sun. When we don't have a spare nozzle or filter O-ring, a spray may not get finished on time. I'm simply saying that our position and responsibilities directly affect the golf course and the maintenance team's ability to do their job properly.

Late July is also a good time to decide which aeration tine best suits the playing surfaces. Our vendors usually have sales/promotions in August and recovery/alleviation in compaction seems to go hand in hand. We like to allocate funds for replacement bedknives as well to follow up with grinding until sand is no longer collected. Another thing in August to look forward to is the BMW Championship that our friends at Caves Valley are hosting. I have the privilege of volunteering in the maintenance shop under Jim Soullier and will share my experiences in the next article.

Thanks to the state of Maryland for their progress in vaccinations- the MAAGCS is now happy to announce an in-person Equipment Manager event on September 15th at Chevy Chase Club. Mark Luffy, an independent consultant, will be discussing all facets of reel cutting units including configuration of future capital purchases based on the variety of grass and height of cut range. We will have a PowerPoint presentation in the morning, lunch, then hands on adjustments/grinding in the afternoon along with a shop tour/open forum. I am looking forward to hosting anyone interested and growing together!

We're very lucky to work in such a concentrated area of colleagues and I look forward to strengthening our network. There's no reason any of us should fight an issue and not have someone to ask- same goes for an "ah-ha" moment that we don't know who to share with.

Cheers to a new year and keep an eye out for new information!



Anthony Lewis

Chevy Chase Club

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alewis@chevychaseclub.org



SAVE THE DATE – Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Equipment Manager Meeting

Equipment Managers are invited to a special MAAGCS meeting at Chevy Chase Club on Wednesday, September 15th. Presenting at the meeting will be guest speaker [Mark Luffy](#), an independent consultant who will be discussing all facets of reel cutting units including configuration of future capital purchases based on the variety of grass and height of cut range. There will be a PowerPoint presentation in the morning, lunch, then hands on adjustments/grinding in the afternoon along with a shop tour/open forum. This will be a great event for equipment managers to get hands on learning along with great networking. More info and registration will be available soon!



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Pier Oyster Bar Social Photo Recap

Each summer we like to host a social event or two at a local establishment to encourage our members to get to know each other in a less formal setting, and it usually coincides with a major golf event. Our recent social event was on June 17th at the Pier Oyster Bar and Grill in Annapolis during the first round of the U.S. Open Championship. We had a great turnout with over 40 in attendance to include superintendents, vendors, assistants, crew members, wives, young ones and industry friends. Drinks were had, apps were devoured and even the ice cream got some attention. A great time was had by all, and we hope to see you out at the next one! Here are some photos from the afternoon.



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Getting to Know You

1. What did you do before the GCSAA?

I worked in higher education for over 10 years. The last 7 years were in NCAA Division II collegiate athletic administration with a focus in athletic compliance. I worked for University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and East Stroudsburg University. Athletic administration was a good transition into golf organizational work. Connecting with the membership and program support is a transferrable skill that has been strong between the two industries.

I come from a golf background as a player. I was fortunate to play at Penn State where I was a four-year starter. I have qualified for several USGA tournaments including the Women's U.S. Amateur and Women's U.S. Mid-Amateur. I still play amateur tournaments and enjoy playing the game.

2. What are some things you look forward to in the new position?

I am excited to meet the membership and chapters in the Mid-Atlantic. I want to help grow golf course management and the game. I am hoping I can expand the offerings of the GCSAA and increase membership and chapter engagement. I also would like to see First Green field trips grow especially in DC and Virginia. Engaging early with our future workers will diversify our industry.

3. What challenges do you see in your position?

I am the new kid on the block, and it is always hard being new. Trying to create relationships and communications is difficult but when it happens good things happen. I hope to make an impact and the membership feels comfortable connecting with me. It is nerve-racking to walk into a room or event and be the new person. I hope people are comfortable talking to me so I can help them best use the GCSAA and their membership.

4. What programs or events are you excited for with the GSCAA?

I am excited to get involved in the First Green. Who does not love a field trip? Even better the field trips are to a golf course. It is novel to connect with students to learn about STEM in a real-world environment. Also, I love that we can showcase golf course management as a career.

I am also looking forward to GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego, CA. Having the event face to face is such a positive for the golf industry. In addition, I am excited to meet more of the membership. It will be nice to see so many people together in one place there for support and networking.

5. What is one thing people wouldn't know about Katrin Wolfe?

I am a fitness junky. I like to move and workout. I studied exercise science and it has helped shape my career. I have been hiking all around the country and my favorite hiking trip was to the Grand Canyon. I am always up for a new fitness craze. I taught Zumba and cycling for many years. I currently do CrossFit and addicted to my Peleton bike. Bonus one thing people did not know is I have only lived in Pennsylvania.



Katrin Wolfe

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Twitter: @GCSAA_MidAtl

Letter from the Editor

This job would be easy if it weren't for the golfers. We wouldn't have jobs either but how nice would it be to have less golfers on the course. One hundred golfers a day average is enough to keep us running. We work around them, clean up after them and get started in the dark so they can tee off near dawn. This is our task, our chosen profession. Some days I feel like I do it for them, some days I am getting a hit list done for my boss. The best days are when I am doing it for myself because I want Musket Ridge to be great. I have been working on golf courses for 34 years. When I was younger I never gave it much thought. Why do I do whatever it takes? We work long hours and in hot weather. Put up with unreasonable expectations and so much more. What is it that drives us to continue?

For me it is a mix of reasons. I want Musket to be great for sure but it is more personal than that. I feel it when a green has an issue. It affects my mood when a sprinkler goes out and I don't catch it until we lose turf. We all feel it to some measure but why? Sometimes I fantasize about having a job I just show up for and when I walk out to go home and don't give it a second thought. But honestly that is not who I am. I could be a cashier at Home Depot and I would be looking for ways to make things better and how I can do more to help. This is what it comes down to. There is something inside of us that wants to make things better. I notice the little things. I see flaws everywhere I go and think about what would be better. This is how I tick. But what came first? Is this a trait I was born with or have I become a detail minded person because I began this work when I was 18 and loved it so much that it changed who I am.

We each have our own truth. However, I can certainly say that on the days when I enjoy the sunrise or a cool morning in July and appreciate the work my guys have done this is why I do it, for me.

So if you are feeling the heat this summer perhaps a little perspective can help. Do what you can, enjoy what you like and get some sleep.

Thank you for reading Turf Matters



Vince DiStefano

Musket Ridge Golf Club

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Member Projects

Rolling Road Bunker Renovation

Rolling Road Golf Club is undergoing an extensive bunker renovation, bringing the course back to the original design concepts put in place by designer and two-time British Open Winner Willie Park Jr. Superintendent and MAAGCS President Chris Fernandes is documenting the project through these photos giving us an inside look at their process. Aspects of the renovation include total reconstruction and relocation of all 66 bunkers. The new flat bottom bunkers will feature Better Bill Bunker liner and steep grass faces adding great character to the course. Designer Joel Weiman is capturing the uniqueness of a 100 year old Willie Park Jr. and the McDonald and Son's crew are constructing the bunkers as if they were always here.



Left side #4



Par 3 #17 Final shaping



#8 Right side relocation



Drainage install #4



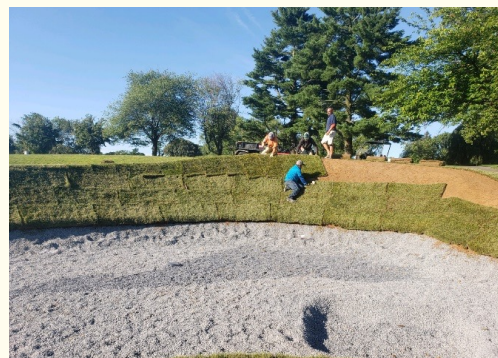
Right side #18 green pipe and gravel installation



#8 Fairway and approach expansion



#11 Relocation



Rolling Road Team installing sod on #2



Par3 #3



Finished product #4



Left Side #11 Rough shaping

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, October 18, 2021

Annual Stewards of the Chesapeake Fundraiser Tournament

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7601 Bradley Blvd
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The MAAGCS annual fundraiser tournament, The Stewards of the Chesapeake, will be held at the historical Bethesda Country Club in Bethesda, MD on Monday, October 18th. Since its inception in 2000, the tournament has raised over \$250,000 and proceeds benefit the Maryland Association of Green Industries (MAGI), various universities, the GCSAA, and other groups supporting environmental issues, such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In 2018 MAAGCS committed \$25,000 over five years to the University of Maryland Pathology Research Fund.

The event is our main fundraising effort for the year and the success is attributed to our sponsors for supporting the effort, board of directors for arranging a first class affair and our members for participating. We could not do it without you.

More information and registration will open soon. If you are interested in sponsorship, please contact Tyler Eastham at teastham@gmail.com.

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MAAGCS Match Play presented by Syngenta

We are down to the "Elite Eight" of the Match Play Championship. It looks like we will have a first-time champion this year, as all teams that won the event in the past have been eliminated.

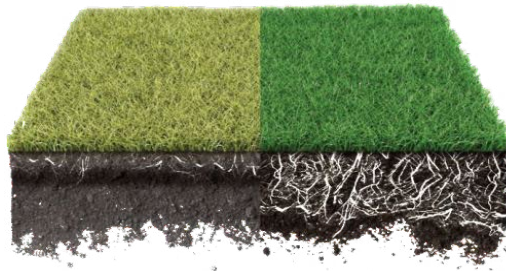
Don't forget to **send results and photos to** teastham@gmail.com and also post your photos to social media using #MAAGCSMP2021. Good luck to everyone that advanced, and please have your matches completed by the deadline, **Sunday, August 8.**

Sixth Annual Match Play Championship - 2021

ROUND 1 April 5th - May 16th 41 days	ROUND 2 May 17th - June 27th 41 days	ROUND 3 June 28th - Aug 8th 48 days	ROUND 4 Aug 9th - Sept 26th 48 days	ROUND 5 Sept 27th - Nov 7th 41 days	ROUND 4 Aug 9th - Sept 26th 48 days	ROUND 3 June 28th - Aug 8th 48 days	ROUND 2 May 17th - June 27th 41 days	ROUND 1 April 5th - May 16th 41 days
Immigrant Invasion Snowden-McGuiness Larsen-Wheeler Larsen-Wheeler The Total Package Stottmeyer-Randall Snyder-Zarnstorff Snyder-Zarnstorff McGregor-Britton McGregor-Britton Betcher-Hinesley Betcher-Hinesley Spray the Infield Mueller-Kingora Drive for Show Putt for Congo Welsh-Higgins Whiskey on the Rocks Gasper-Jewell Going Down Swinging Navin-Huey The Liberal Elite Weiman-Guldseth Sandels-Janzer Sandels-Janzer Dupeak-Repp Dupeak-Repp Chemical Warfare Wells-Camuso Grip it and Sip it McNamara-Cornwell Springirth-Gustaitis Springirth-Gustaitis	Larsen-Wheeler Larsen-Wheeler Snyder-Zarnstorff Snyder-Zarnstorff McGregor-Britton McGregor-Britton McGregor-Britton McGregor-Britton Drive for Show Putt for Congo Welsh-Higgins Whiskey on the Rocks Gasper-Jewell The Liberal Elite Weiman-Guldseth Chemical Warfare Wells-Camuso Grip it and Sip it McNamara-Cornwell	Larsen-Wheeler Larsen-Wheeler McGregor-Britton McGregor-Britton Whiskey on the Rocks Gasper-Jewell Grip it and Sip it McNamara-Cornwell	McGregor-Britton McGregor-Britton Whiskey on the Rocks Gasper-Jewell Grip it and Sip it McNamara-Cornwell	McGregor-Britton McGregor-Britton Whiskey on the Rocks Gasper-Jewell Grip it and Sip it McNamara-Cornwell	Dannen-O'Connor Dannen-O'Connor Riismandel-Fuhrman Riismandel-Fuhrman Golf Czars Haskins-Cowing Rice-Smith Rice-Smith	Strokes Gained Sippin' Esh-Puddester Dannen-O'Connor Dannen-O'Connor Double D's E. David-D. Corley Riismandel-Fuhrman Riismandel-Fuhrman Golf Czars Haskins-Cowing Hall-Kazee Hall-Kazee Rice-Smith Rice-Smith Essex Boyz Minnich-Moore	Newcomb-Tokarski Newcomb-Tokarski The Meat Sweets Fernandes-Bostian Dannen-O'Connor Dannen-O'Connor Double D's E. David-D. Corley Warburton-Ernst Warburton-Ernst Albert-Kraushofer Albert-Kraushofer Riismandel-Fuhrman Riismandel-Fuhrman Golf Czars Haskins-Cowing Water Dogs Neal-Anders It's a Wonderful Life Wunder-Sneisire Hall-Kazee Hall-Kazee Rice-Smith Rice-Smith Both Sides of the Bay Weaver-MoHenry Essex Boyz Minnich-Moore Brothers From Another Mother Harrison-Moala	Strokes Gained Sippin' Esh-Puddester Newcomb-Tokarski Newcomb-Tokarski The Meat Sweets Fernandes-Bostian Dannen-O'Connor Dannen-O'Connor Double D's E. David-D. Corley Warburton-Ernst Warburton-Ernst Albert-Kraushofer Albert-Kraushofer Riismandel-Fuhrman Riismandel-Fuhrman Golf Czars Haskins-Cowing Water Dogs Neal-Anders It's a Wonderful Life Wunder-Sneisire Hall-Kazee Hall-Kazee Rice-Smith Rice-Smith Both Sides of the Bay Weaver-MoHenry Essex Boyz Minnich-Moore Brothers From Another Mother Harrison-Moala

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Tuesday, November 30, 2021



**Annual Meeting
Elections
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Annual Meeting Sponsor



Guest Speaker
Pete Wendt
Congressional Country Club



U.S. Girls' Junior Contested at Columbia Country Club

One hundred years after it hosted the 1921 U.S. Open Championship, Columbia Country Club, one of Maryland's oldest golf clubs, was the site of the 73rd U.S. Girls' Junior Championship. This is the 15th venue to host both the U.S. Girls and Junior and U.S. Junior Amateur Championships. This is the third USGA Championship to be hosted at Columbia Country Club. Not to mention, the 2015 Stewards of the Chesapeake was also contested at Columbia CC.

First conducted in 1949, the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship is open to female amateurs who have not turned 19 on or before the final day of the championship and have a Handicap Index® not exceeding 9.4. Notable champions include three-time winner Hollis Stacy, Mickey Wright, Nancy Lopez, Amy Alcott, JoAnne Gunderson Carner, Pat Hurst, I.K. Kim, Inbee Park, Lexi Thompson and 2018 U.S. Women's Open champion Ariya Jutanugarn. Starting in 2017, Girls' Junior champions earn an exemption into the following year's U.S. Women's Open Championship and now the Augusta National Women's Amateur.

The event took place July 12-17. Two rounds of stroke play determined the top 64 players that advanced to match play. Rose Zhang was the medalist in the stroke play and went on to defeat Bailey Davis in the match play finals.

Columbia Country Club is known for its rich history and pristine conditions. Some even say the 16th hole was Bobby Jones' inspiration for #12 at Augusta National. Whether that is true or not, one thing stands firm, the maintenance team led by Superintendent Steve McCormick did a phenomenal job preparing the course and should be proud of showcasing their hard work to millions of viewers that watched the championship on The Golf Channel.



MAAGCS Member and Assistant Superintendent Jimmy Halley at Columbia Country Club hand waters greens during the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship

MAAGCS / ESAGCS Chesapeake Challenge Recap

Queenstown Harbor Golf Links • Queenstown, MD • Tuesday, May 25, 2021

The annual Chesapeake Challenge between MAAGCS and ESAGCS was another fantastic gathering among the associations. The morning kicked off with a light social during registration that led into special guest speaker Jason Ruth giving an informative talk about the Chesapeake Bay, and the life of a waterman harvesting oysters, crabs and other seafood. Katrin Wolfe, the new GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador for the Mid-Atlantic region was also in attendance to introduce herself to the members and play along in the competition.

The weather was exceptional as was the golf course, unfortunately that was not the case for the scores on the side of the MAAGCS. The ESAGCS won handily by 5 points with a final point total of 12.5 to MAAGCS' 7.5, claiming their third consecutive victory. Surprisingly, there was a clear winner in 19 of the 20 matches, with only one match splitting a point.

As always, this was another excellent event for networking, fun competition and education. A special thank you goes out to John Anderes, CGCS and his staff for hosting, all the event sponsors, year-long partners, and last but not least the players that came to support the event. We have a year to get our games in shape so that in 2022 we can bring the President's Trophy back to the mainland where it belongs!

[Click Here for More Event Photos](#)



Josh Fuhrman & Paul Giordano



Joe Haskins MAAGCS & Tod Cowing ESAGCS
"The Match Makers"

LAKES		RIVER	
12 1/2		7 1/2	
MAAGCS	ESAGCS	MAAGCS	ESAGCS
1A	1A	8A	8A
1B	1B	9A	9A
2A	2A	10A	10A
3A	3A	11A	11A
4A	4A	12A	12A
5A	5A	13A	13A
6A	6A	14A	14A
7A	7A		

Final Scoreboard



ESAGCS President Owen Sutherland &
MAAGCS President Chris Fernandes

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MAAGCS Employment Referrals

As a service to members, the MAAGCS provides complimentary posting of jobs to MAAGCS members and Partners.

Please visit <http://www.maagcs.org/page-1759933> for a complete listing and details of available positions. Here is a sampling:

[Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, MD seeks Assistant-in-Training](#)

[Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, MD seeks Candidate for Internship](#)

[Kenwood Country Club in Cincinnati, OH seeks Director of Grounds & Agronomy](#)

[Ballyhack Golf Club in Roanoke, VA seeks Equipment Technician/Manager](#)

[Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club in Gainesville, VA seeks Golf Course Mechanic](#)

[Hermitage Country Club in Manakin-Sabot, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Catalong Golf club at Lake Anna, VA seeks First Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Woodmont Country Club in Rockville, MD seeks Turf Equipment Technician](#)

[Musket Ridge Golf Club in Myersville, MD seeks Equipment Manager](#)



MAAGCS Schedule of Events



September 15, 2021: Wednesday

Equipment Managers Meeting, Chevy Chase Club, Chevy Chase, MD

September 15, 2021: Wednesday

Assistants Meeting/Course Tour, Congressional Country Club, Bethesda, MD

October 18, 2021: Monday

Stewards of the Chesapeake, Bethesda Country Club, Bethesda, MD

November 2, 2021: Monday

MAAGCS Annual Championship, US Naval Academy Golf Course, Annapolis, MD

November 8-10

GCSSA Chapter Leader Symposium

November 30, 2021: Tuesday

MAAGCS Annual Meeting, Rolling Road Golf Club

February 16, 2022: Wednesday

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

GCSAA Update

By Katrin Wolfe, Mid-Atlantic Field Rep



Wolfe meets with Jeff Holliday at the Virginia Tech tournament.

I started with the GCSAA in May, and it has been a whirlwind. I have been fortunate to travel through the Mid-Atlantic region meeting the membership and chapters. I have attended several events and have seen firsthand what camaraderie is found in the GCSAA. I am excited to help this wonderful group of individuals and help grow the golf course management field.

My first event I attended as the Field Rep was to the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, VA. It was a great day on the links and a great start to my time with the GCSAA. I followed up my visit with a trip to the Eastern Shore of Maryland at The Chesapeake Challenge at Queenstown Harbor. I have also made stops in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. I so lucky to be in this industry. I have had nothing but support and well-wishes as I start this new journey.

As we move into the late summer and early fall at the GCSAA, it is important that we look at opportunities to connect with our local communities. The First Green is a great way to help local students understand what great work is happening at golf courses

and a way to create career aspirations for golf course management. The First Green is a living laboratory that allows students to experience science, technology, and math that is hands-on and interactive. Who does not love a field trip? Also, the experience is a great way to get good news about the local courses. As we enter the new normal and are back to interacting face to face, the First Green is a great experience for you and the local schools. Please feel free to contact me for more information or for help getting a First Green field trip at your course.

Do not forget the GCSAA Golf Championships for 2021 is coming up fast. This year it is in Palm Springs, California. Not only will be getting some great golf over 36 holes, but you can also experience a First Green field trip. In addition, time to get out and see friends who you have not been able to see for a year and enjoy a scramble! Registration opens August 13.

Lastly, if you are looking to help golf at legislative level, please consider becoming a Grassroots Ambassador. The goal is to match a GCSAA member with every member of Congress. The GCSAA goal is almost there but we need your help. Your state has a couple openings. You can see if your district needs an ambassador by visiting GCSAA Advocacy. This is a way to connect with lawmakers and help the golf course management industry.



Wolfe speaks at MAAGCS /ESAGCS Chesapeake Challenge

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