



Mid-Atlantic Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Turfgrass Matters

SPRING 2023



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President's Message Spring 2023

We have had a great start to the season with the above average temperatures this spring. I know here at MVCC the golfers have enjoyed Mother Nature's helping hand in promoting quick recovery after our greens aerification. Now we just have to hope that this weather trend doesn't continue into July and August!

National Golf Day is back in full swing this year celebrating its 15th year anniversary. The event will be held May 8-10th in Washington D.C. Part of this event includes a beautification service project near the National Mall on Tuesday, May 9th. The MAAGCS has worked closely with Finch Turf Inc., the National Park Services, GCSAA and other allied associations to make this another amazing event. I want to specially thank John Lobenstine, Ryan Kraushofer, and Finch Turf Inc. for their continued efforts in heading the planning efforts year after year. On May 10th, the GCSAA and other allied associations will spend the day meeting with congressional members to advocate for the golf industry. If you haven't participated in National Golf Day, I would highly recommend doing so next year. It's a great way to continue to support our industry and what better place to do so than in our Nation's Capital!

We've had some amazing events to start the year, and I'd like to thank all of you that supported them through sponsorship or attendance. Our association is only as strong as the members.

Make sure you get these upcoming events on your calendar!

- Kickoff for Match Play Championship presented by Syngenta.
 - Deadline for the first-round matches is May 20th.
- First Green Event at Westminster National Golf Course.
 - Come support this wonderful outreach program for students that focuses on STEM.
- PGA Championship Networking Social at Frisco's Tap House.
 - Enjoy watching the first round of the PGA Championship as you enjoy networking with other MAAGCS members!
- Chesapeake Challenge at Queenstown Harbor.
 - Join in the fun of this Ryder Cup style match between MAAGCS vs ESAGCS.

I would like to recognize all our sponsors and year-long partners. I can't emphasize it enough that your support plays a critical role in the success of our association!

The MAAGCS Board has been working diligently to provide additional resources for our Workforce Development Program. We've continued to work closely with Tyler Bloom and are excited about the opportunities and resources we will be making available soon. However, these tools are only beneficial if you take the opportunity to do so. As always, we recommend utilizing the resources that the MAAGCS provides.

Chris Sandels MAAGCS President #GETGROWING



Chris Sandels
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MAAGCS PGA CHAMPIONSHIP SOCIAL

Thursday, May 18, 2023

We will be hosting a Social Hour at Reckless Shepherd Brewing Co. in Columbia MD, on **Thursday, May 18 from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm**. This is also the new location of the Frisco Restaurant. This event coincides with the PGA Championship being played at Oak Hill East Course.

All MAAGCS members are encouraged to attend for drinks, appetizers and camaraderie. As always, it should be a great time and plenty of fellowship with your colleagues. There is no official registration for the event so please bring your assistants, mechanics and any staff members. **The address for Reckless Brewing Co. is 8895 McGaw Road, Columbia, MD 21045**



Oak Hill East Course



Image from Last Month's Social

Assistants Update - Joint Golf Outing

We are proud to announce that MGCSA and VGCSA are coming together this upcoming fall to host a joint assistant superintendent golf outing at TPC Potomac on November 13th. We know there is much interest in creating golf events specifically for assistants to partake in, which is why we are so excited to be offering up this opportunity for our members to play at one of the area's premier clubs. This event promises to be an excellent opportunity for assistants in the area to come together for an event which includes education in the morning, followed by afternoon golf, and finishing up with dinner, drinks, and networking. We hope to attract as many participants as possible to make this a worth while experience for all those involved as TPC has given us rights to the course for the day.

As we move along, more information on the event will be provided as the finer details are ironed out. For now, we wanted to put out an initial promotion in order to raise interest and thought about attending this event. We know it will be a lot of fun, and hope that many members are excited for the chance to play a PGA Tour level course!



Luke Simon

Chevy Chase Club

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2023 National Golf Day Returning to an In-Person Event!

May 8-10, 2023



National Golf Day will take place May 8th-10th in 2023 and will return to Washington D.C. for the first time since 2019. Planning is underway to bring back all aspects of the in-person event.

National Golf Day serves as the pinnacle advocacy event of the year for the American Golf Industry Coalition. As a coalition of golf industry leaders, National Golf Day will celebrate its 15th year in 2023.

To kick-off the event, the Community Service Project (CSP) will return on Tuesday, May 9th. In partnership with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and National Park Service, the CSP will allow attendees the opportunity to participate in various beautification projects around on the National Mall.

National Golf Day 2023 will also see the return of a Keynote Briefing Session and Congressional Reception on May 9th. And finally, all attendees will have the option to participate in more than 250 legislative meetings on Wednesday, May 10th.

If you'd like to participate in this year's event and see the detailed schedule, please visit the [American Golf Industry Coalition](https://www.americangolfindustrycoalition.com) website.

Please Note: The host hotel for this event is the Doubletree Crystal City. Registrants will be sent the hotel booking link, via email, once they have completed their registration. It is preferred that advocates schedule departing flights on Wednesday, May 10th no later than 6 p.m. ET.



GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans (R) works with area superintendents on the Community Service project.

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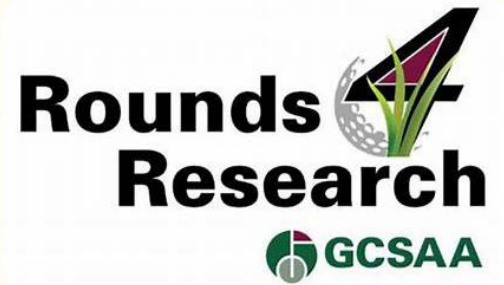
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ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH

You still have time to donate!

Auction Ends April 30th



Piney Branch Golf Club

Attention MAAGCS members and partners. Help build a better game and support turfgrass research in the Mid-Atlantic! Donate a round of golf to help support your profession. Rounds 4 Research is an innovative program aimed at generating resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future. The premise is simple: Golf facilities can support the effort by donating rounds of golf for two or four or "stay and play" packages and other items that are auctioned online.

Whether you are an organization looking to solicit rounds or a golfer looking for the opportunity to support research while enjoying the sport you love, Rounds 4 Research provides a way for all aspects of the game to come together to ensure its future.

Why R4R matters

Rounds 4 Research allows GCSAA chapters and turfgrass foundations to participate as fundraising partners with the vast majority of proceeds going back to the MAAGCS. In this way, these organizations can direct the proceeds to specific projects that will have the most significant impact in their local areas.

The Rounds 4 Research program is addressing a critical shortage of funding for ongoing, university-based agronomic research, education, advocacy programs and course operations. You can help foster sustainability with a donation or by bidding on rounds during the online auction.



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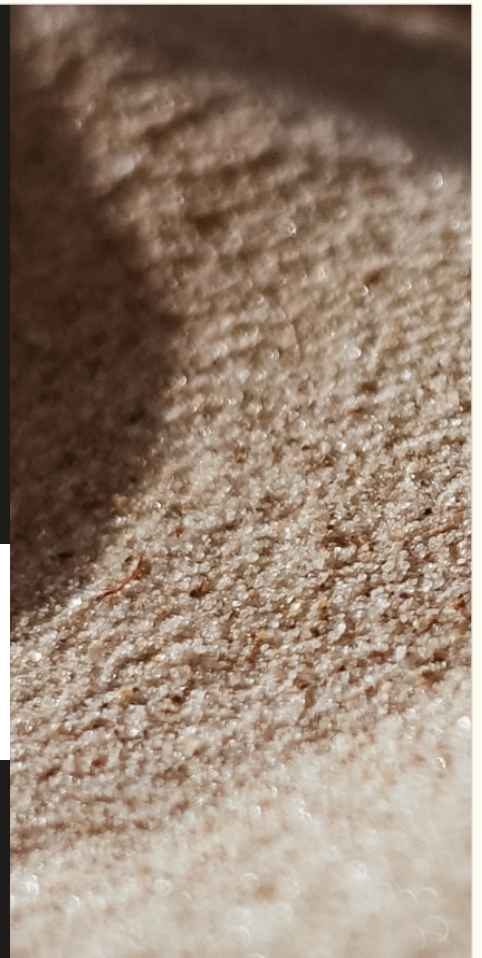
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GCSAA Update

Spring is here. It is nice to shed the layers and spend more time outside especially the golf course. GCSAA has an exciting spring and summer ahead for its members. First, we are excited to join the American Golf Industry Coalition, a partnership of the game's leading associations to promote and advocate for golf, for National Golf Day May 8-10 in Washington D.C. The event will be in person, where we and other golf leaders will come together to celebrate the games over \$8.4 billion dollar impact to the economy as well as other great initiatives the game supports such as charities, fitness, and the environment. During the 3 day event, there will be a community service project on the National Mall, a First Green Field Trip, lobbying with our nation's leaders, advocacy for the game, and camaraderie. I hope you can join GCSAA in supporting golf course management at this great event. Please visit <https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/national-golf-day> to learn more and register.

The end of April will host the GCSAA and GCSAA Foundation annual Rounds 4 Research (R4R). This year the auction will run April 24-30. Courses from around the country and even abroad donate rounds of golf and/or stay and play packages to benefit research and education for golf course management industry. Money raised in the event go back to the local chapters and organizations. Rounds can be donated up to the start of the auction. Please consider donating a round today. The website is open now so you can check out the courses you want to bid on. The auction is also a great way for you to find your next golf vacation. It is a win, win auction. Go and play an exciting new course while supporting research and education.

Check it out: <https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research>

As the growing season gets into full swing so does GCSAA education and certification. The new modernized Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) is a great way to demonstrate your skills as a superintendent. CGCS is the most widely recognized achievement by a golf course superintendent. The program is now created to fit your schedule with the proctored exams that can be completed at work/home, golf course attesting in the growing season, and communication/leadership requirement. You can complete the program in any order that fits you best. The program is open to Class A members who are currently employed as a golf course superintendent. In addition, GCSAA Certified Turf Equipment Management (CTEM) is growing fast. The program is a great addition to any Equipment Manager's resume. GCSAA also has the Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series. The program can also lead into the CGCS program. Do not forget through the year we offer free webinars that are included with your membership. I am excited in May my friend Dr. Nicole Chinnici will be hosting her first webinar with GCSAA on ticks and golf. Not only is she an expert on ticks but also a great golfer. Check out more here on education and certifications <https://www.gcsaa.org/education>

If you had not heard, GCSAA is helping facilities with their BMPs. GCSAA is helping every course by preloading their state BMP into their portal. Each course will need to go into their portal to update and personal their manual from the prepopulated manual. For the manual to be an official facility manual, the course will need to update the cover, course information, and make sure all sections match the specific facility. Finally, the table of contents needs to update to match the manual sections. Through the year GCSAA will continue to host BMP webinars. Chapters are encouraged to continue supporting webinars. The GCSAA Environmental Programs office is always available to help. GCSAA is continuing to work toward phase III of BMPs which is validation. We encourage you to complete your facility BMP to help your course today and into the future. Check out more here: <https://www.gcsaa.org/environment/environment-hub>

Keep a look out for next year's Conference and Trade Show. We are visiting beautiful Phoenix, Arizona. The dates are January 29 - February 1. We hope to see you there.



Katrin Wolfe

Mid-Atlantic Regional Field Staff
Representative

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Registration Opens Soon!

Chesapeake Challenge - Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Queenstown Harbor



Presented by:



Save the date, Tuesday, May 30, 2023. The Chesapeake Challenge is a Ryder Cup style match between the MAAGCS and ESAGCS and will once again be played at Queenstown Harbor. Teams of two players from each association will play a best ball match. 1 point will be awarded to the winning team, with 1/2 point being awarded to each team in the event of a tie. The association with the most points after all matches have been played will be declared the winners of the Chesapeake Challenge and will be awarded the President's Trophy. **This event will sell out fast so be sure to sign up early once registration opens! [Click here to register!](#)**

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Letter from the Editor

Greetings and Salutations,

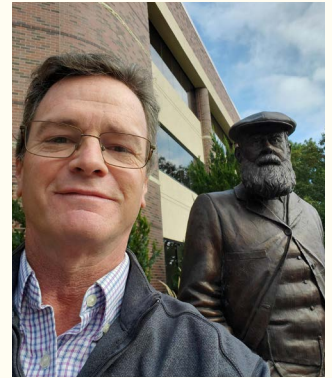
Congratulations, you made it to another spring and another season full of promise and opportunity. We all have experienced the last several mild winters with this past winter being more like North Carolina than winters we expect to have in the Mid-Atlantic region. However, I am not here to complain. The bentgrass at Musket Ridge went dormant as usual but started growing out of dormancy early during the warm temperatures we had in February and March. We aerated on March 27th with half inch diameter solid tines and ran the Greens King with verticutter reels over them first.

Every year we are asked to aerate as early possible so we are healed up before the regular golf season kicks in. This is the plan but the weather does not cooperate. We try to catch a good week and then we get a cold snap with freezing temperatures that halts the healing process. It never fails and we expect it. As mild as March was, the thing that affects the growth of the bentgrass is the nighttime low temperatures. March 2023 had 15 nights below freezing, mostly in the twenties. The day we were looking at was March 20th but freezing temperatures were in the forecast so we pushed it back a week. The 22nd to the 26th was beautiful so we proceeded on the 27th. The procedure worked well and the final product was good. Then we had 3 freezing nights in a row. The bent went backward instead of forward. It took a well-timed spray and three 80 degree afternoons in the second week of April to wake the bent up for good seventeen days after completing aeration.

One of the hardest things to manage with this aeration schedule is timing the Ethephon applications. I have found that Ethephon will not effect the bentgrass as much if it has not broken dormancy so I take advantage of warm days in February to knock the poa back. The trick is the timing after aeration. This year I had to let the poa bounce back a little because the bent was not breaking dormancy and healing the aeration holes. When I sprayed 3.6oz/1000 in the 80 degree weather the bent continued to thrive but seed heads became apparent at the same time. A few days later the poa receded.

It is important for a superintendent to be a team player and do the things that we are directed to do. I will keep aerating in March as long as my head doesn't roll if the greens have not healed in 5 days. Communication is key and advocating for the turf is part of our jobs. Keeping the club house staff aware of the frost and freezing temperatures is key so they see that the freezing temperatures and the greens lacking color happen simultaneously. The hardest thing about managing a daily fee golf course is the lack of time allowed for maintenance. It doesn't matter if it is a top 100 resort or Musket Ridge. The rounds are the focus and the superintendents must do what is necessary to work around play.

Thank you for reading Turfgrass Matters



Vince DiStefano

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v.distefano@musketridge.com



MAAGCS / MAATEM - Equipment Manager Spring 2022

A busy Winter led to a productive Spring with our golf course operations! Mild temperatures in late February allowed us to begin cultivation practices and get some early mowing in. I prefer to get our first cuts in during these early warm ups to work out any kinks or fine adjustments. Then as usual, we experienced a cold blast in March where we can tie up any loose ends. This year's Golf Industry Show had much higher attendance and there were lots of innovative robotic and lithium products showcased. I personally am looking forward to demoing multiple items as runtime and longevity continues to improve.

Ten plus years ago the hybrid technology electric reel mowers hit the market and prevented many hydraulic leaks from happening by removing such a potent failure point of reel hoses and now all-electric equipment is becoming more common. Electric motors, steering/lift cylinders, and pumps are very efficient and quiet. There will be considerations when making entire fleet changes such as on-site backup generators and power grid capabilities, but we are certainly on our way. MAAGCS is committed to providing relevant information and education opportunities as we bridge this gap.

At the time of publication, we will have had our Spring Equipment Manager's Event. Tony Gustaitis from Golf Safety volunteered his personal time to complete a mock audit of Hampshire Green's maintenance facility. This concept mirrors an OSHA compliance visit so we can all learn what safety measures we need to consider. The information is also pertinent as the GCSAA CTEM level three attesting is heavily weighed on shop safety. A big thank you to Tony Gustaitis, Scott Fowler, and the Montgomery County Revenue Authority for making this all happen.

This Summer and Fall be on the lookout for another education event and a social as well. Networking and education makes us all more resourceful and able to handle whatever this profession throws at us.



Anthony Lewis,
Chevy Chase Club

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alewis@chevychaseclub.org



Getting to know You

1. What jobs and experiences have led you to your present position?

I believe everything happens for a reason so I would say all of my previous jobs led me to where I am today. I have been fortunate enough to work at some great clubs all over the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic learning a lot from every stop along the way.

2. Where are you from and where did you go to school?

I am from Olive Branch, Mississippi. I attended Mississippi State University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Plant and Soil Science.

3. What is the most rewarding thing in your job?

The most rewarding aspect of my job is building relationships with people and helping them achieve their goals along the way.

4. What do you look forward to do with MAAGCS this year?

I want to continue to develop ways to help superintendents find and retain staff. I would also like to find new ways to promote this career path to school age kids who may not know about this industry.

5. What is the best advice you have received in this profession?

Trust your gut. It is usually right.

6. What are some of your hobbies?

Anything outdoors. I love to play golf, hunt and fish.

7. Tell us something about yourself we might not know.

I played community college soccer before attending turf school.



Matt Earhart

Superintendent
Chartwell Golf & Country Club



Volunteers Needed!

First Green at Westminster National Golf Course Welcomes 5th Grade Students from William Winchester Elementary

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 • Westminster National Golf Course



Hosted by



Ryan Kraushofer

Local 5th Grade students from William Winchester Elementary School visit Westminster National Golf Course on Tuesday, May 16 for the first, First Green Field Trip of 2023. This is an excellent opportunity to engage with elementary school students and introduce them to the golf industry, specifically geared towards turf management. Using STEM education guidelines, students will learn some of the daily aspects of taking care of a golf course.

Volunteers Needed! Host superintendent Ryan Kraushofer is requesting volunteers to help with this fun day of mentorship and education. Please contact Ryan at westminsternationalgc@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer.

A special thank you goes out to Scientific Plant Services for sponsoring the t-shirts for the event!

Tentative Schedule

9:30 am

Volunteers Arrive

9:45 am

Busses Arrive & Intros

10:00 - 1:00 pm

Education - 6 STEM Stations

1:00 - 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm

Students Depart

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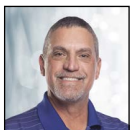
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8th Annual MAAGCS Match Play Championship Presented by Syngenta

Bracket Announced

The 2023 MAAGCS Match Play CHAMPIONSHIP presented by Syngenta is underway! The first-round matches have been established and the deadline to complete them is May 20th. Be sure to send your pictures and results to [Tyler Eastham](#) and [Joe Haskins](#) so we can make the updates and keep players informed.

It is the responsibility of the players to arrange their own matches, including the scheduling of tee times and course location. In the event of one player being absent at the starting time, a side may be represented by a single player. If the second player joins during the match, they must join between holes. See rule [23.4](#).

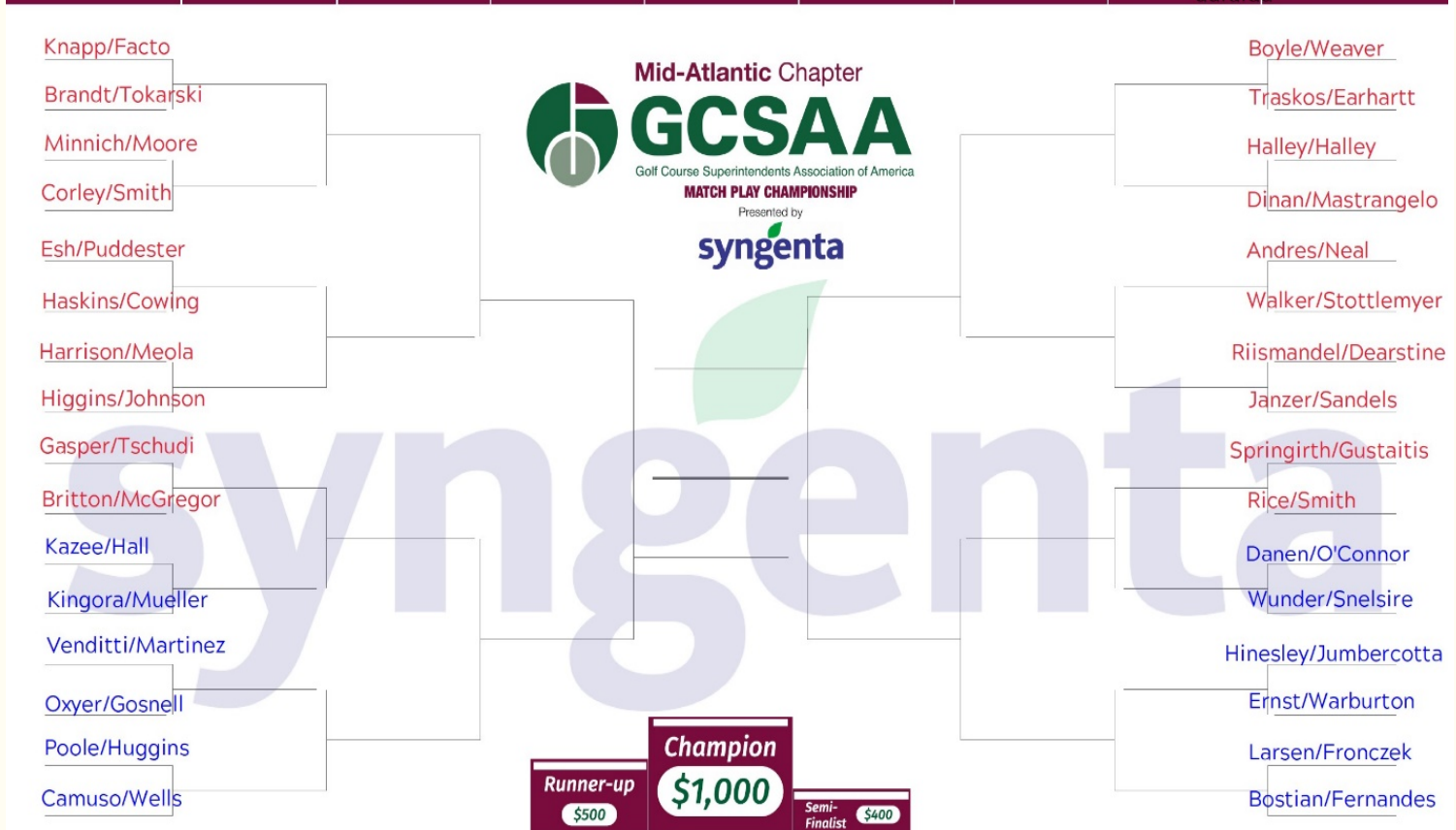
Good luck to everyone and remember to have fun, take pictures and get your matches completed before the deadlines!

Defending Champions

David McGregor & Stephen Britton

Eighth Annual Match Play Championship - 2023

ROUND 1 April 10th - May 28th	ROUND 2 May 29th - July 3rd	ROUND 3 July 4th - Aug 13th	ROUND 4 Aug 14th - Sept 24th	ROUND 5 Sept 25th - Oct 16th	ROUND 4 Aug 14th - Sept 24th	ROUND 3 July 4th - Aug 13th	ROUND 2 May 29th - July 3rd	ROUND 1 April 10th - May 28th
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Often Imitated, Never Duplicated

2023 Education Seminar

It was another fantastic day at Turf Valley Resort for the our annual Education Seminar. Kicking off the day was Steve McDonald with a presentation covering a variety of pests with strategies on how to scout and control them. Christopher Fields-Johnson was up next with an in-depth presentation of soil care and irrigation, root zone reclamation and pest and disease controls. After a short break, Tyler Bloom gave a workforce development update stressing the importance of the [workforce development resources](#) we have on our website and the successes some of our members have had using those tools. Up next was an entertaining and informative segment by Tom Malehorn, Stan Kostka and Mike Fidanza, they covered soil surfactants and reducing the amounts of pesticides used on a golf course. John Mascaro followed up with a photo quiz showing examples various issues superintendents face across the country and around the world ranging from lightning strikes to trenches caused by earthquakes. After lunch, Bill Kreuser gave a detailed presentation about balancing PGRs, fertilizer and management to maximize green performance. Attendees took another short break to enjoy some ice cream before Darin Bevard closed out the education portion of the event covering pest problems, weed control and managing nutrition levels leading into a USGA championship.

Education was not the only highlight of the afternoon. Katrin Wolfe and Joe Haskins facilitated the random drawing for \$1,000 for those that have completed their facility BMPs, Eric David of Naval Academy Golf Club was the winner. There was also the 2nd annual silent auction that brought in over \$10K!

A special thank you goes out to all of the speakers, attendees, sponsors and silent auction donors!

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Darin Bevard



Chris Sandels

2023 Education Seminar (cont.)



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Superintendent/Assistant Challenge Recap

Bowlero, Columbia – March 19, 2023

It was another fantastic day at Bowlero, Columbia for the annual Superintendent/Assistant Challenge. This was a two-person team event with two divisions, the Super/Assistant division and the Open division. There was also a prize for the individual that bowled the highest score of the day.

In the Superintendent/Assistant Division Tom Tokarski and Dustin Gosnell of Compass Pointe Golf Course bowled a four-game combined score of 719, claiming their second win in a row defeating second place team Ryan Kraushofer of Westminster National Golf Course and George Thornberry of Renditions Golf Course.

In the Open Division Bernie Hipkins and Mike Olson of Rattlewood Golf Course bowled an impressive 714 to take the title, well ahead of second place finishers Josh Reiger of Envu and Jeff Rice of Oak Creek Golf Club who rolled a 665.

Tom Tokarski completed threeppeat winning individual highest score once gain with a 246, the only bowler to roll over 200 in a single game.

As always this was a great day for networking and team building for all that attended. A special thank you goes out to our event sponsors – Helena, Mitchell Products, Envu, Collins Wharf Sod and to our year-long partners!

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Champions centered – Tom Tokarski & Dustin Gosnell



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MAAGCS Schedule of Events

April - October 2023

MAAGCS Match Play Championship, Presented by Syngenta, Various Locations

May 8-10: Monday-Wednesday

National Golf Day & Community Service Project, US Capitol, Washington DC

May 16, 2023: Tuesday

First Green Event, Westminster National Golf Course, Westminster, MD

May 18, 2023: Thursday

PGA Championship Networking Social, Reckless Shepherd Brewing Co., Columbia, MD

May 30, 2022: Tuesday

MAAGCS VS ESAGCS Chesapeake Challenge, Queenstown Harbor, Queenstown, MD

June 15, 2023: Thursday

U.S. Open Social Hour, The Pier Waterfront Bar & Grill, Annapolis, MD

July 20, 2023: Thursday

The Open Championship Networking Social, The Point Crab House & Grill, Arnold, MD

October 2, 2023: Monday

MAAGCS Annual Championship, Piney Branch Golf Club, Upperco, MD

October 16, 2023: Monday

Stewards of the Chesapeake, River Bend Golf & Country Club, Great Falls, VA

Fall TBA, 2023

MAAGCS Annual Meeting, Rolling Road Golf Club, Catonsville, MD



MAAGCS Employment Referrals

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

[Waverly Woods Golf Club in Woodstock, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Fredericksburg Country Club in Fredericksburg, VA seeks Equipment Manager](#)

[Wisp Resort in McHenry, MD seeks Superintendent](#)

[The Country Club at Woodmore in Mitchellville, MD seeks Equipment Manager](#)

[Shannopin Country Club in Pittsburg, PA seeks Superintendent](#)

[McHale Landscape Design seeks Turf Applicator](#)

[Stonehenge Golf and Country Club in Richmond, VA seeks Superintendent](#)

[Fairfax County, MD seeks Director of Agronomy \(Park Management Specialist II\)](#)

[Cutalong at Lake Anna in Mineral, VA seeks Head Equipment and Facilities Manager](#)

[Vero Beach Country Club in Vero Beach, FL seeks Superintendent](#)

[Nutrien seeks Turf & Ornamental Sales Representative](#)

[East Potomac Golf Links in Washington D.C. seeks 1st Assistant Superintendent](#)

[Fountain Head Country Club in Hagerstown, MD Superintendent](#)

[Genesis Turfgrass seeks Sales Professional](#)

[Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford, NY seeks Superintendent](#)

[A new Kyle Franz Golf Course in Luling, TX seeks Superintendent](#)

[Huntingdon Valley Country Club in Huntingdon Valley, PA seeks Golf Course Superintendent](#)

[Highlands at Fisher Mountain Golf Club in Franklin, WVA seeks Superintendent](#)

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