

**Mid-Atlantic Association of
Golf Course Superintendents
NEWSLETTER**

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

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President's Message

Fall has now arrived, I'm happy to say. At our last meeting, held at Bonnie View Country Club (27 die-hard golfers played in a much-needed, day-long rain), we were fortunate to have our national president, Bob Osterman, on hand to explain and justify the actions the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has taken this year. He also outlined the direction in which the GCSAA is headed, in line with the management changes he described.



Ken Braun, *President*

On October 11, we will be meeting with superintendent George Murphy at the Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club. This is our annual tournament, and we should all plan on spending some extra time in the Ocean City area. This meeting is going to be casual – no jackets and ties required.

SCHEDULE OF 1983 MEETINGS

- October 11 – Ocean City Golf & Yacht Club
- November 8 – Leisure World
- December 13 – Belle Haven Country Club

FOR SALE

1967 Locke Power Lawn Mower 70", 8 HP. Call Mike McKenzie, 767-4406.

Those Hard-Riding, Back-Busting Vehicles of Ours

*by Gerry Gerard, Superintendent
Bretton Woods Recreation Center*



As we ride around the golf course on our Turf Trucksters each day, doing our routine checks, little do we realize what is happening to us—until it is too late. We appreciate nature and enjoy being outdoors and not being confined to a desk job, but in many cases we are beating our bodies into destruction, in particular, our backs. By riding Trucksters and other turf-type vehicles with their rigid suspension systems, we are turning our spinal columns into shock absorbers. Over a short period of time, no harm is done, but over the years a certain amount of deterioration takes place and sooner or later, many of us develop back problems. These seem to show up mostly in cases

where the superintendent has been in this business for more than 10 years.

What is the answer to this problem, and how do we protect ourselves and our employees from the occurrence of back problems, other than selling our Trucksters? I know that in some cases superintendents have switched their modes of transportation. They are now spending much more of their riding time in pickup trucks, golf carts, or other type of softer riding equipment.

In any case, the problem should be brought to the attention of the manufacturers of these vehicles. With today's technology, their engineers could certainly soften the ride and provide a better means of back support for the operators of the vehicles. Until such changes are made, more and more of us will be suffering from back problems, now and in the future. We can only hope that manufacturers will recognize the problem and do something about it, very soon.



Keep the (F)Airways Open — To ALL

How important is communication? What good is it? Why have it? These are some aspects of communication I would like to expand on and show the importance of each of these questions to our profession.

The first question, "How important is it?" Without being able to talk and reason with people, our profession is dead. If your green chairman comes up to you and asks you a technical question, you better be able to come up with an intelligent answer or tell him you are not sure but will find out. Nothing turns someone off more than when an employee answers a question with an "I don't know."

If there is a weak link in the chain of command of a club, it stems from lack of communication. If the pro doesn't tell the superintendent that he has 100 players on Friday morning for a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start, the superintendent could be in a real bind. All these type problems could be avoided with a phone call or a memo between the pro shop and grounds department.

Why have it? Without a good line of communication between manager, pro, and superintendent, trouble usually will arise. Maybe the best way to have a good line of communication is through a staff meeting. Include in that meeting the club president, the manager, the golf professional, the golf superintendent, and the pool manager. Let the club president chair the meeting and clear the air of any ill feelings between departments. If all departments of a country club can work together, it sure makes everyone's job much easier.

Another way we as golf course superintendents can improve our own line of communication is through playing with members. I am sure that some clubs will not allow this, but at those clubs that encourage it, the superintendent should make every effort to play at least one 18-hole round per week with a group of members. Get a view of the golf course from a playing standpoint instead of an agronomic one. Let the members question you about why this and that looks or performs the way it does while on the golf course, not in the shop. How often does your green chairman

(Continued on page 3)