Workshop on Turf Disease Scheduled

On April 9, a workshop on turf disease will be held at the University of Maryland in College Park with Dr. Peter H. Dernoeden of the Department of Agronomy and Ethel Dutky of the Department of Botany as instructors. The course will cover diagnosing diseases of golf course turf as well as cultural approaches to the control of disease. In the afternoon, using microscopes, participants will be taught how to identify fungi that cause dollar spot, brown patch, Pythium blight, anthracnose, and others.

Enrollment is through Ken Ingram at Columbia Country Club (phone 301-951-5060), and the registration fee, which includes course materials, refreshments, and a book ("A Turf Manager's Guide to Identification of Turf Pathogens," by Pat Sanders of Penn State), is $20. Those desiring to retain a set of microscope slides of 10 fungal diseases should add $15. Checks should be made payable to the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The workshop will be held in room 2230, H.J. Patterson Hall (across from the Student Union Building), and parking is available in Lot 1 about Cole Field house or in the Adult Education Center parking lot.

News from the Golf World

Local clubs who belong to the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association have had their courses re-rated under the new USGA rating system; they have also been assigned “Slopes” which dictate the number of strokes to be received at that course for all handicaps. The result is that a golfer will get more handicap strokes on a tough course, fewer on a very easy one. The new system is effective April 1 for the 43 member clubs, and the WMGA is one of eight regional or state associations authorized to implement the rating and Slope system for 1984.

New president of the USGA is James R. Hand of Ossining, N.Y., who succeeds Bill Campbell of Huntington, W. Va.; he has served as chairman of the Championship Committee for the past six years.

Twenty-two-year-old Cindy Davis of Bowie, Md., has been named second alternate on the 1984 Curtis Cup team that will meet a team of British and Irish women golfers at Muirfield in June. Whatever claims other golf ball manufacturers may make in their ads, Achushnet's Titleist ball was the choice of the top professionals in 1983; almost three times as many PGA pros teed up with Titleist than with all other golf balls combined, and those who played it won $7 million more than did those who used the second place ball (which presumably is the ProStaff). The 384 Tour ball was banned for a brief time last year when the USGA found that its dimples were asymmetrical, giving it a tendency to “sail” when placed on the tee in a certain position (could be that some of those big money winners knew that position, eh?). When the dimple pattern was redone, the 384 was allowed back in competition.

Striking the first balls in the 1984 Masters Tournament in Augusta on April 12 will be Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead, who will serve as Honorary Starters, a role filled by Gene and Byron Nelson in recent years and before that by Freddie McLeod and Jack Hutchison.

The PGA of America has taken over the World Golf Hall of Fame in Pinehurst and has closed the building for renovation until later this Spring. Golf collectors who own items of historical interest or antique quality have been invited to display their collections for a 1-year period, and those whose items are selected will not only be pictured with their collection but will receive a free visit to Pinehurst sometime during the year.

According to the National Golf Foundation, 17.8 million golfers played an estimated 434 million rounds of golf in 1983, a 2.2% increase over the 425 million rounds estimated to have been played in 1982. The growth of golf has thus slowed slightly, since the increase over 1982 was 7.6% and 1982 was 10% ahead of 1981.

The annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference will be held in Tifton, Georgia, on April 16-17; contact Dr. Glenn Burton, U. of Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga., 31793 for details.

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