Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents
NEWSLETTER

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Green Spring Valley Hunt Club to Host June 12 Meeting

The Mid-Atlantic's June 12 meeting will be at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club in Garrison, Maryland, whose golf course was started in 1912 with nine holes. That nine was rebuilt and another nine added in 1955 by noted golf course architect Robert Trent Jones. The course is fairly level, with some trees and a stream.

Grant Pensinger, CGCS, is the Green Spring Valley superintendent, and he reports that his greens are an old mixture of bent grasses overseeded with Pennxross, while his fairways have been overseeded with a variety of rye grasses. He cuts the greens seven days a week at a height of 5/32", fairways three times a week to 3/4", and rough once or twice a week to 2 1/2". His fertilizing schedule is five times per year with 1# N for greens, twice a year with 1# N for fairways.

In addition to the second round of the match play tournament, a low net tournament will be played the afternoon of June 12. Entry fee will be $3, and participants must tee off between 12 noon and 1:30 p.m.

To get to Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, take the Baltimore Beltway to Exit 20, Reisterstown Road. Go north (left) on Reisterstown Road to Green Spring Valley Road, turn right, and go a half block to the course.

A buffet lunch, deli style, will be available on the patio starting at 11:30, for $4.95, plus tip and tax. Cocktails (cash bar) and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6 to 7 p.m., and dinner, which will start at 7 will include a Florida tossed salad, sliced tenderloin with mushroom sauce, fettucine, Alfredo, vegetables gardiniere, homemade apple pie a la mode, rolls, butter, and beverage ($17, including tip and tax).

Please call the office in Columbia, (301) 964-0070, with dinner and golf reservations.

(See page 3, column 3, for PROGRAM)

60 By Mason-Skacan Wins '84 Supt.-Pro

by George Renault
Golf Chairman

The high winds and heavy rain that hit Indian Spring Country Club just as the players in our annual Superintendent-Pro tournament on May 8 came down to their finishing holes didn't seem to bother Earl Mason and pro Don Skacan of Gibson Island Club — after taking shelter from the worst of the storm, they went on to finish with a net 60 best ball and win the right to have their names inscribed on the Clare Emery Memorial Trophy for 1984.

Scott Wagnor and Luther Showaker of Leisure World were second with 63, matching out Nick Vance and Dave Walker of Laytonsville, while Ken Braun and Cos Tiso of Bonnie View matched out Bob Jenkins and Ed Cassidy of Carpers Valley after they tied at 64. The three teams that deadlocked at 65 (Continued on page 2)
From the Golf World

The folks who run the Kemper Open out at Congressional have asked MAAGCS members to be their guests; just present your current membership card at the ticket window (and family members are included). Other news of local interest is that Nick Vance will take your order for a fine pair of slacks for $25. Also, next year’s GCSAA golf tournament will be down at Hilton Head, where the number of courses increases every year.

This year’s first recipient of the National Golf Foundation’s Outstanding Service Award will be Lionel Callaway, an innovative golf professional who has given much to the game. Now 88 years old, Callaway was born in England; his father was both a pro and a golf course architect. Turning professional himself at an early age, he came to this country in 1912, and by 1920 he was the professional at Pinehurst, remaining there as pro and later as tournament director until retiring in 1971. While at Pinehurst, where he still lives part of each year, Callaway developed his handicapping system, which can be used when any of the players in a tournament do not have a current USGA handicap. Using a table of scores, a player’s handicap is determined by deducting from his gross score a specified number of the worst holes. He has continued to have a number of innovative ideas for golfers and, incidentally, possesses one of the finest collections of play clubs and other ancient tools that your editor has yet to see.

It has now been confirmed that there will be a severe shortage of Penncross bent seed and this shortage could affect golf course construction this summer. Penneagle is also in very short supply, and the reason is the very heavy rains that hit Oregon last harvest season. In addition, Tee-2-Green Corp., which markets the seed, underestimated the demand for Penncross. This year’s supply will not be available for shipment from Oregon until at least August 15, too late for many construction projects.

The President’s Message

Early in May, I attended a preliminary conference with the GCSAA Board of Directors in Washington, D.C. I’m pleased to be able to report that the Board without exception is excited about what Washington, the Convention Center, and the city’s various attractions in terms of what all three have to offer for the GCSAA 1985 meeting here. As the host association, the Mid-Atlantic will, of course, have certain responsibilities. Most of these will involve acting as welcoming committees at airports and hotels, manning a host booth with information about the sights and activities in Washington, and helping to plan the spouses’ program. As details develop, I will be keeping the membership fully informed.

In the near future, we will begin compiling a list of members interested in helping out with these host duties. If each of us volunteers just a small part of his time, I’m confident that the Mid-Atlantic will do its part to ensure a highly successful National Conference.

Our June meeting is at Green Spring Valley, and our host is Grant Pensinger; hopefully, the weather will cooperate. Remember to register for the meeting in advance by calling 964-0076.

Michael J. Larsen, President
Sand Greens: Warning! Proceed With Caution!

by Roger Kisch
Southview Country Club

In 1980, after much discussion with the Board of Directors and Green Committee, Southview Country Club decided to rebuild two of its worst greens. After a great deal of thought, I consulted with local experts and decided to construct these greens out of a high percentage of sand.

Although we had the soil tested and built according to university specifications, the greens were unmanageable and unplayable the next three seasons. The following are just some of the difficulties I encountered:

1980 ... Seeded May with Penneagle ... Cut first time May 19 ... Opened June 20 but turf wasn't ready -- too thin grass didn't have any body.

... Played "temporaries" off and on during July and August -- turf wouldn't thicken up, found P.H. too high. Calcium and Mg. too high also. Initiated treatment program.

1981 ... Started second season on new greens ... Continued to bring P.H. back in line.

... Applied all nutrients, etc. "In the book" and nothing seemed to work.

... Applied nitrogen -- turf got soft and lush.

... Did not apply nitrogen -- greens didn't grow or fill in.

... August obtained professional assistance from University of Minnesota. They believed it was micronutrient deficiency. I tried many, but with no response.

... Playing temporary greens again and members began losing their patience.

... September USGA Turf Advisory made a visit and suggested a soil test by Texas A&M. Results: High silt and clay content as well as high fraction of coarse sand in mixture. Infiltration rate from 0.0 inches to 0.6 inches per hour. (USGA Spec, 4 to 10 inches per hour).

... USGA suggested rebuilding both greens. Membership would not tolerate any more inconvenience. Therefore, USGA advised aerifying, removing cores and topdressing with different sand.

1982 ... Beginning third season with greens continuing in poor condition.

... Aerified and topdressed 7 times this season ... Greens improved slightly following each aerification, but turf still not in good shape.

... Played "temporaries" a week or so this season -- greens slightly improved by fall.

... P.H. almost okay.

1983 ... USGA persists in their opinion to rebuild the greens but agree they are improving slightly.

... I continued aerifying program 3 times in 1983 because I hoped to build some thatch.

... Fall -- greens are almost acceptable state, have changed soil top 2 to 3 inches. Starting to see roots over 1 inch for first time since initial seeding.

SUMMARY: I knew I was gambling when I constructed these greens with high sand content, but I never imagined that it could have been so difficult to grow grass on them.

This article just touches on the problems that Southview Country Club experienced with these greens. So when planning construction, proceed with caution and get more than one expert's opinion -- and make sure you use the right sand!

Reprinted from Hole Notes, Minnesota Golf Course Superintendent's Association.

One Approach to Establishing Zoysia Fairways

by Gerry Gerard
Superintendent, Bretton Woods Recreation Center

This spring in conjunction with Summit Hall Turf Farms, we at Bretton Woods began the process of establishing a Meyers Zoysia grass fairway. The fairway at the sixth hole, which is a par 3, has approximately 16,000 square feet and was picked for this renovation program.

The installation process seemed slow because of bad weather which kept us from devoting our entire time to this project. A single-row hydraulic plugger that was built by the staff at Summit Hall Turf Farms was used for cutting the holes in the fairway that would later receive the Zoysia plugs. The machine cuts a 2-inch plug on an 8-inch center and deposits the discarded plugs into a box for easy removal and dumping. Then the pre-cut Zoysia plugs are placed into the open holes by hand. When this is completed, the entire fairway is rolled to ensure a good level surface. The entire process took about 72 man hours to complete. I believe that this time could be reduced if a larger area were to be done. The plugging was done at the end of March when the Zoysia was still dormant, and it wasn't until mid-April that the Zoysia began to green up.

The tests that will be compiled this year on the establishing process include the following: 1. Test plot treated with Roundup prior to plugging; 2. Test plot treated with Betasan; 3. Test plot treated with Ronstar; 4. Test plots with different nitrogen applications.

As an alternate method of establishing Zoysia fairways we will try to sprig Zoysia into existing fairway turf sometime around the end of May or the first of June.

Hopefully these programs will give us a better insight into a more economical way to establishing Zoysia fairways than strip sodding.

Meeting Schedule, 1984

June 12 -- Green Spring Valley Hunt Club
July 10 -- Piney Branch Golf Club
August 14 -- Annual Picnic at Bretton Woods
September 11 -- Chevy Chase Club
October 9 -- Maryland Golf & C.C.
November 13 -- Hobbits Glen
December 11 -- Lakewood C.C.

Match Play Second Round will be June 12

The second round of the match play tournament will be played on June 12 at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club. Pairings and starting times are as follows:

11:30 Nick Vance vs. Walter Montross
1 p.m. Dick Gieselman vs. Gerry Gerard

Dave Fairbank vs. George Renault

PROGRAM FOR JUNE 12

Lunch -- 11:30 a.m.
Golf -- tee off noon-1:30 .m.
Cocktails -- 6 p.m.
Dinner -- 7 p.m.
Meeting -- After dinner
Coats and ties required

NEW MEMBER

Wade Barrett, Class B
Superintendent
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Emory Patton, Diana Patton 301-384-6300

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