March 12 Meeting at Westwood Opens 1985

When MAAGCS members gather at Westwood Country Club on March 12 for their first meeting of 1985, they will find quite a different golf course if the weather permits them to play. The 30-year-old Vienna, Virginia, layout has completed a 12-year greens rebuilding program that converted its old, clay-based greens to USGA specification greens, and the new Eddie Ault designs have convinced Westwood members that their course now ranks among the area's best.

Westwood began its life in 1954 as Westbriar Country Club, a proprietary club built by a land developer on an old dairy farm on the eastern edge of Vienna, a pre-Civil War town that is now a busy suburb. The original course was designed by Alfred H. Tull and built on relatively flat land, bisected by a flood plain. All but two of the new greens were Ault designs that incorporate challenging contours. Several thousand trees have been planted on the course in the last 20 years; its length is 6,384 yards from the white tees, 6,715 from the blues. All greens are PennCross bent, as are many of the tees, while fairways are mixed ryegrass, bluegrass and poa annua.

Larsen Is Re-Elected As MAAGCS President

Nominated from the floor for a second term, Mike Larsen was re-elected as president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents at the December meeting at Lakewood Country Club. Gerry Gerard was re-elected as vice president, George Renault was voted in as secretary, Lee Dieter remained as treasurer, and Virgil Robinson, Nick Vance, and Dick Gieselman were named to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Ken Braun will remain on the Board as immediate Past President.
The President’s Message

By all accounts, the GCSAA’s 56th International Golf Course Conference and Show was the largest and most successful ever. Without exception, the Executive Board and members of the GCSAA staff acknowledged the overwhelming cooperation they received from the members and spouses of the Mid-Atlantic. The degree of response and level of participation among our members was exceptional. My personal thanks go to everyone who assisted, especially to those who manned the host booth, helped with the spouses program, and served as aides at the educational sessions. Make no mistake about it: our association has survived good times and bad since 1928 because of the willingness of our membership to participate. Again, thanks to all of you.

Our first meeting of 1985 will be Westwood Country Club on March 12, and Tom Haske will be our host. In the coming year, let’s all resolve to register in advance for our meetings by calling our office at 964-0070. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you at Westwood on the 12th.

Michael J. Larsen, President

From the Golf World

The show at the convention center was an unmatched opportunity to review the very latest in equipment, supplies, chemicals, and just about anything that can be used on a golf course. It also gave us a chance to collect not only souvenirs but catalogues of every description. Attendance did not quite hit the expected 10,000, but it came very close.

On display at the GCSAA booth on the show floor was a poster citing MAAGCS treasurer Lee Dieter for his recruiting efforts, an unanticipated recognition for one of ours.

Several superintendents and your editor attended the kickoff luncheon for the new TPC course at Avenel, scheduled to be open in 1987 or before. Deane Beman, the PGA Tour commissioner, came back home to head the list of speakers, and two categories of corporate membership were announced, single at $40,000 initiation fee and multiple at $75,000. Both are aimed primarily at major corporations and firms who will be able to entertain executives and customers at the new course. Yet to be disclosed are the individual or associate fees, or the green fees that such members will have to pay.

We were happy to get, the other day, a letter from an old friend of many MAAGCS members, Harry Eckhoff, who is Director, Golf Facility Development and Member Relations of the National Golf Foundation. As an honorary member, he’s been on the mailing list since he moved to Florida, and he says the newsletter almost seems like a letter from home.

Finally, have you noticed how much credit superintendents are getting these days? The USGA went out of its way to say fine things about Sherwood Moore and Bob Aionzi, who got Winged Foot ready for the 1984 Open, and television commentators covering PGA Tour events almost always praise the course superintendent for the fine condition of the track the pros are playing.

Turf Insect Update

The first of 1985’s educational seminars will be held Tuesday, March 19, at Columbia Country Club, where Dr. Lee Hellman of the University of Maryland will provide an update on turf insects. The seminar starts at 8:30 a.m., lasts until noon, and the $10 registration fee includes coffee and doughnuts. Call your reservations in to Ken Ingram at 951-5060 or drop him a note at Columbia.
Championship Green Secrets Revealed

by Douglas T. Hawes

Just before he left the USGA to join the PGA Tour as agronomist, I called Billy Buchanan to ask him for the secrets of maintaining championship greens. He said, “Doug, you’re not going to believe it, but the secrets of championship greens aren’t all that secret. Many superintendents maintain their greens this way all the time.”

Well, I acted real innocent and said, “Billy, if that is the case, maybe you could tell these secrets to me before you leave.” He said, “I would love to,” and this is what he told me:

“You throw all the fertilizer spreaders away and buy a large spoon. Once a week during the growing season, you stand downwind about 10 yards off the edge of each green and throw a spoonful of fertilizer up in the air. Use a little left-to-right motion to help spread it and keep the spoon about head high. The ideal wind is one blowing about 15 miles an hour. In West Texas, you may have to hold the spoon lower, because the wind probably doesn’t ever blow that gently.”

He went on to say that after about 2 years of feeding the grass this way, you will note that the grass never lies down when anybody comes within 10 yards of it. It stands tall, hoping to catch at least one particle of fertilizer that gets thrown its may each week. Thus, grain problems are solved. As the grass is not growing, daily mowing just trues the surface like a light rolling, and superintendents have no messy, wet clippings to deal with. They just empty the baskets every few greens.

Now, you may not believe every word of the above, but the next time you hear of a superintendent spoon-feeding his greens, check it out. He will probably be applying no more than a quarter pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet. He may be putting one pound of urea (45-0-0) in his spray tank each week and covering 30-40,000 square feet with that tank full. That amounts to less than one ounce of nitrogen per thousand square feet—a “sniff.” He might well use potassium nitrate (saltpeter) or ferrous ammonium sulfate instead of the urea. A program this light he probably calls his summer feeding program. Many managers of championship bentgrass greens do not feed them at all from late June to early September.

Match Play Event Starts in April

This year’s Match Play Championship will get underway in April, according to Golf Chairman Dick Gieselman, who also announced a new scoring system for the tournament. This year, each match will have 3 points—1 for the front nine, 1 for the back, and 1 for winning the most holes in the match. The 18-hole total will be used as a possible tiebreaker.

NEW MEMBERS

David J. Seidenberger, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Hunt Valley Golf Club

John J. Davis, Class F
Sales Manager
T.E.J., Construction Fabrics Division

Charles Dewey (Dee) Robinson, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Cedar Crest Country Club

Robert D. Wilbur, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Army Navy Country Club

Peter R. Schmidt, Class D
(Non-Resident)
Assistant Superintendent
Shenandoah Valley Golf Club

Bert C. Amidon, Class D
Superintendent
Lake-of-the-Woods

Mark S. Merrick, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Towson Golf & Country Club

Lentz Wheeler, Class A
Superintendent
Reston South Golf Course

Doug Stanley, Class A
Superintendent
Medal of Honor Golf Course

Wayne R. Sasser, Class A
Superintendent
Chantilly National Golf & CC

Richard A. Piatnek, Class F
Sales Manager
Egypt Farms, Inc.

Meeting Schedule, 1985

March 12 — Westwood C.C., Tom Haske, Host
April 9 — Hog Neck G.C., Ben Stagg, Host
May 14 — Woodmont C.C. (Supt.-Pro Tournament), Mike Larsen, Host
June 11 — Montgomery C.C., Jeff Miskin, Host
July 9 — Winters Run G.C. (luncheon meeting), John Drew, Host
August 13 — Bretton Woods, Annual Picnic, Gerry Gerard, Host
September 10 — Hobbits Glen G.C., Bill Neus, Host
October 14 — International C.C., Steve Nash, Host
November 12 — Hunt Valley G.C., Bob Orazj, Host
December 10, Naval Academy, Mike McKenzie, Host
Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Supporters

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Distributor of Bunton Commercial Mowers, Yard Man Riders and Tractors, Ryan Turf Care, Milorganite, Brophyll Sprayers, Standard Pro-Line, Par Aide and Lewis Line Golf Course Accessories.
Silver Spring: 301-589-2300 Robert Adams
Baltimore: 301-589-0500 Andy Johnson
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Centreville Sod Growers
Bluegrass, Fescue, and Falcon Tall Fescue Sod
Sheldon & Craig Betterly 703-361-8338

Conaway, Inc.
Ransome, Bobcat, SDI Sprayers, Terra Aerator, Poulan Chain Saws, Jacobsen Trucks, Weed Eater Trimmers
Dick Jones Wash: 301-953-9220
Jim Duval Bait: 301-792-7383

Cornell Chemical & Equipment Co., Inc.
Pesticides: (Fungicides, Herbicides, Insecticides, etc.) Chemicals: (Dyes, Paints, Plastics, etc.) Application Equipment: Sprayers, Spreaders, Parts, etc.
Cliff Case, Don Klein 301-636-2400

Egypt Farms, Inc.
Golf Green Topdressing, Trap Sand, IBDU & Par-Ex Fertilizers, R&R Parts, Warren’s Spun-bond, Gypsum & Mulch
Rich Platek John Strickland, Carroll Davis 301-335-3700

E-Z-Go Division of Textron
GX-800 Light Turf Vehicle, X-500 Light Turf Vehicle, GT-7 Turf Truckster and E-Z-Go Golf Cars
Rick Arnold, Bob Post, Roscoe Shupe 301-948-2920

G.L. Cornell Company
Jacobsen Turf Equipment Tom Harris
Cushman Trucksters Russ Bull
Ryan Turf Equipment Terry Hill
Bean Sprayers, National Mowers Ken Baker
Standard, Par Aide Golf Supplies Bill Brown
Club Car, Columbia Par Car Randy Reed 301-948-2000 800-492-1373

Harford Industrial Minerals, Inc.
Precision Topdressing and Bunker Sand
Jack Montecalvo Bait: 301-679-9191
Dottie Stancill N.J.: 609-965-3414

Lea's Green Meadows, Inc.
Fertilizers (W.I.N. and S.C.U.), Chemicals, Grass Seed, Bulk Soil Mixes, Spreaders, Sprayers (1 gal. - 300 gal. size), Tools and Supplies
Herb Lea, Harry Friley 202-488-1818

Lebanon Chemical Corporation
Manufacturers and Formulators of Country Club and Greenskeeper Professional Turf Fertilizers.
Junior Ruckman 703-869-2628
Ed Price 800-233-0628

LESCO, Inc.
SCU Fertilizers, Chemicals, Grass Seed, Supplies and Equipment
Lynnie Cook 301-386-2322
Vanessa Johnson 301-855-1271
Toll Free: 800-321-5325

Lofts/ Maryland
Grass Seed and Fertilizer
Joe Yudin, Ron Priilaman, Riley Barber
Wash: 301-937-9292 Bait: 301-323-4444

Moore Golf, Inc.
Golf Course Construction, Remodeling, Irrigation Installation
David Canavan, Bob Ryan, Lyle Thompson 703-825-9211

Par-Ex Professional Products
Slow Release Fertilizer with IBDU, IBDU/SCU R.A. "Dick" Doyle 301-357-8056
Estech, Inc., P.O. Box 208, Bartow, Florida 33830-0208 813-533-1181

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Technical and Planning Services, Professional UF & SCU Fertilizers, Pesticides (Fungicides, Herbicides, Insecticides, etc.), Turf Seeds (Bents, Ryes, Blues, Fescues, etc.), Soil Amendments
Tom Malehorn 301-876-7474

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Summit Hall Turf Farm, Inc.
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Brian K. Finger 301-948-2900
Frank H. Wilmot

Turf Center, Inc.
Premium Turf (Bluegrass, Tall Fescue, Bermudagrass, Zoysia), Vaughan's Grass Seed
Diana Patton, Emory Patton 301-384-6300

Turf Equipment and Supply Company, Inc.
Toro Turf Equipment and Irrigation Products, Olathe Turf Equipment, Giant Vac Blowers, Vacs, Truck Loaders, Daihatsu Utility Vehicles, Snowco Trailers