Memorial Trophy Honors the Late Bob Shields

By Nick Vance
Golf Chairman

Under our new policy of dedicating the memorial trophy given to the net winner in the annual Mid-Atlantic golf championship to a past member each year, L.R. (Bob) Shields was chosen as the name to appear on the trophy for 1986. That trophy went to Sam Kessel, who had a net score of 70.

Although I did not know Bob Shields as well as many of our members did, I found that everyone who did know him well had their own store of memories and tales about Bob, some of them professional, others about character, but all told from the heart.

In writing about Bob shortly after his death in 1982, Craig Spottswood, one of his close friends, commented that although Bob had been born in 1912, he did not become involved with golf courses until 1946, when he started working at Annapolis Roads Country Club with his brothers, Roy and Ray. He became superintendent at Sligo Park Golf Course in 1948, remaining there for four years until he took over as superintendent at Woodmont Country Club in Rockville, a post he held until his death.

An active MAAGCS member, he was chosen as the association's president in 1951 and was re-elected in 1952, the year he attended his first National Conference; he never missed one after that. Bob edited the MAAGCS newsletter from 1953 to 1963, and in 1964 he was elected to the GCSAA vice-presidency. He became national president in 1965. During this time, he was instrumental in the establishment of the two-year turfgrass program at the University of Maryland. In 1971, he was named Mid-Atlantic superintendent of the year and then served three more years as the local association's president.

In ending his 1982 article, Craig commented that, "Everyone associated with the green industry will miss the presence of this leader." The Bob Shields Memorial Trophy thus has great significance for us all, especially for the man who won it, Sam Kessel, a good friend and "fishing buddy" of the man we've honored this year.

DIAMOND RIDGE MEETING

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lack of a water supply. With no groundwater under the course and municipal water not yet available, water for greens and tees must be brought in by tanker truck starting in July and discharged into the small irrigation lake that during the rest of the year collects runoff water.

The evening meeting will be held at the nearby Ramada Hotel, since the course has neither shower nor dining facilities. For this reason, only jackets and not ties will be required for the meeting. Speaker at the meeting will be Kurt Bluemel of Bluemel Nursery who is a national authority on ornamental grasses, sedges, and rushes, having introduced dozens of varieties of plants from around the world to this country; he has recently returned from his third collection trip to Africa.

The November host, Howard Gaskill, was born in southern New Jersey, graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in horticulture, and stayed in Colorado as a superintendent for 14 years, serving two terms as president of the Rocky Mountain GCSA. He was a tech rep for O.M. Scotts for seven years before joining Baltimore County.

Directions to the course are: From the Baltimore Beltway, I-695, take the Security Boulevard exit (No. 17), go west on Security for 0.6 miles to Rolling Road, turn right, go a half-mile to the first traffic light and turn left onto Dogwood Road. Go 1 mile before turning right onto Ridge Road; course is 0.3 miles. The Ramada is just off Exit 17; from the Beltway, take Security Blvd. west for approximately 400 yards. Turn right on Belmont Ave. and go 1 block to the Ramada.

The program for November 11 is:
Lunch - Not available
Golf - 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(call 944-6607 for starting times)
Cocktails - 5:30 p.m. at the Ramada
Dinner - 6:30 p.m. (cost $18)
Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Schedule 1986

December 9 — Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, Grant Pensinger, host