DECEMBER - ELECTION MEETING - TURF VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will meet at the Turf Valley Hotel and Country Club on Tuesday the thirteenth of December. This is the annual election meeting. Our host for the meeting is Bill Blackert. He has been Superintendent at the club for the last sixteen years. He graduated from the Turf program at the Institute of Applied Agriculture at Maryland in 1967. Some of Bill's fellow graduates in that class (the first) were: Wayne Evans, Dave Cammarota, Craig Spotswood, and Mike McKenzie. Bill went on to receive his Bachelors Degree in Agronomy from Maryland in 1971. Before becoming the Assistant Superintendent at Turf Valley in 1972 Bill worked as a Research Agronomist at the U.S.D.A. in Beltsville. He worked with George Riddle as his Assistant before taking over as Superintendent.

Bill and his wife Elizabeth live on a small farm in central Howard County. They have two children, Bill 16 and Beth 13. They live in a charming old home that has been in his wife's family since 1732.

Founded in 1957, Turf Valley, a privately owned club, has had three owners in its thirty year history. The present owners, Nicholas B. Mangione and family, bought the club in 1978. Under the auspices of Mr. Mangione, the club has undergone numerous improvements and expansions during the past decade. The addition of automatic irrigation to 18 holes and the enlargement of numerous tees as well as the driving range, along with the aesthetic enhancement created by the addition of trees and thousands of flowers are among the many improvements made to the golf course. In order to better serve a rapidly growing membership, Mr. Mangione has also overseen the renovation and enlargement of the clubhouse, the building of a new Pro Shop, and the construction of a new cart storage facility which houses 175 golf carts.

Although all of the improvements made during the Mangione tenure have been impressive, none has made a greater impact than the recent construction of a 20 million dollar hotel and conference center. Opened in July of 1988, this newest facility boasts 173 rooms, 10 suites, 6 conference rooms and 2 restaurants. In conjunction with the hotel, two tennis courts, a pool, parking lots and a new putting green were also constructed. The Turf Valley maintenance crew was responsible for all of the landscaping, grading, seeding and cross-tie wall installation around the hotel area.

Turf Valley Hotel and Country Club will continue to expand next year by adding another 18 hole course to the 36 holes which presently exist. The new course will be built in two stages of 9 holes each. Hopefully, the first nine holes will open in either the fall of 1989 or the spring of 1990.

At this time, Turf Valley is the "home" of over 1000 golf members who, along with over 200 yearly outings, generate an astounding 95,000 plus rounds of golf annually.

The maintenance of the courses at Turf Valley includes mowing the greens five times a week at a height of 5/32 of an inch. The greens are also topdressed six times a year as well as aerified in both spring and fall.

The tees at Turf Valley are mowed three times a week at 3/4 of an inch while fairways are mowed an equal number of times at a height of 7/8 of an inch.

Continued on page 3
A SPECIAL THANKS
by Ron Hawkins

It was one year ago June when I came to Washington, D.C. from Oklahoma. There Bermudagrass grows fast, Bentgrass grows great, Poa, well Roundup takes care of that. The humidity is not as bad in Oklahoma but the wind blows a lot harder and more often. I have found this area to be a challenging area to grow and maintain a golf course. The 1988 season was a dandy to put it mildly.

A special thanks goes from me to all the Washington area Mid-Atlantic superintendents and distributors for your helping hand, warm greetings and acceptance into this truly professional chapter of the GCSAA. Thanks everyone!

Welcome New Members
by Steven Nash, CGC5

The following persons have been accepted for membership in our association. Please make them feel welcome the next time you see them.

Christopher Ayres, Class D
Assistant Supt., Bethesda Country Club

Gerald Hasbargen, Class A
Supt., Marlborough Country Club

Marty Haske, Class F
Irrigation Sales, TESCO

Andrew Donelson, Class B
Assistant Supt., Woodholme Country Club

Kenneth Pepple, Class D "NR"
Assistant Supt., Lanerch Country Club

Robert Ruff Jr., Class A-CGCS
Supt., Wintergreen Country Club

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
by Wayne Evans, CGCS

Last night my wife Carol and I attended a 25th anniversary. I was so impressed by the affair that I wanted to write this article for the newsletter immediately. We attended the affair with a dozen other area superintendents and their wives and 200 or so other friends, family, and Country Club of Fairfax members who had gathered to honor Sam Kessel. The Country Club of Fairfax was honoring him for this twenty-five years of dedicated service to the club.

When we superintendents get together these days and we talk about how we are unappreciated. We speculate that after twenty-five years the only thing we might get is a thanks but what will you do for us tomorrow. Last night we were witnesses to a genuine outpouring of thanks to Sam from some very appreciative people. Sam was brought up to the front of the room by the President of the club. A brief talk about Sam told of his boyhood days when he caddied for President Eisenhower in Gettysburg. A few stories were told about Sam's years at Fairfax and about how they asked Sam to be Superintendent when Charlie Schalestock left. The Club then presented Sam and Sue with a beautiful crystal lamp, a quail hunting trip, and a check.

When Sam was asked to say a few words he was his same unassuming self as always. He recognized his Mom and Dad and other members of this family. He thanked his wife Sue and his children Beth and Tom for putting up with the many years sharing him with the golf course. The long hours, vacationless summers, and the times when he brought his troubles home to them. I don't know about the other people in the room but I had a lump in my throat as big as a tennis ball.

Superintendents young and old can take a lesson from a man like Sam. Sam like us all has had good years, and bad. His golf course like all others has had its ups and downs. Sam has been through it all and has remained consistent with his goal, a great golf course. He has the admiration and respect of his club members. Sam has achieved what we all desire, the respect of our members, our employers, and our fellow professionals.

In addition to his success at his profession, he has a great family. Behind every successful man there is a close knit supportive family. So here's to you Sam. Congratulations on twenty-five years of a job well done. You are indeed an example we can all learn from, a quality superintendent, a great husband and father, and most important of all, a friend to all of us.
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<td>December 6 (Wed.)</td>
<td>Hillendale Country Club</td>
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TRY COMMUNICATING
by Tom Regan, CGCS

At most clubs in our area the Superintendent is known as the guy who takes care of the golf course, and tries to keep the course green. Everyone knows us, but do they really know us? At most clubs there is a monthly newsletter, and some of us are asked to contribute a column about the goings on around the golf course. We explain aerification, when we plan on aerifying, course condition, all of the related subjects we are paid to perform. From a PR standpoint this is good, the members who read this information know first hand what it is we are doing, and it eliminates many rumors which have a tendency to circulate around the club or in the Mens' Grille. A good example of this happened to me this past fall. We have a considerable amount of Poa Annua on certain greens here at Bethesda Country Club, and I was determined to tackle this problem which we take for granted, are sometimes very beneficial to the layman. It also gives the membership a better understanding of our profession, which is more than that of grower. Food for thought.

GET WELL QUICK

We have heard that our good friend Dr. Fred Grau has been in the hospital and was recovering in the Carriage Hill Nursing Home. By the time you receive this letter he will be back home in College Park. For those of you that would like to get in touch the address is: Dr. Fred Grau, 4604 Amherst Road, Box AA, College Park, Maryland 20740-1014. We all wish him the best for a speedy recovery. We received word of his problem at a late date. Sorry for the late notice.

Vince Triplett Fund

The Mid-Atlantic Association was notified by John Segui, GCSAA President at the October meeting that our request to the National had been acted upon. The National Board had voted on our request for special attention for the family of Vince Triplett and had approved it. John presented us with a check for the memorial fund, a check will be presented before Christmas to his family. Thanks.

Dues Increase

The Board of Directors at its last meeting approved a dues increase for the upcoming year. Plans are in the works for more member services and publicity. The dues for all members, accept assistants and non resident, will be $70, assistants will pay $55, and non-residents $35.
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

NEWSLETTER

Lee C. Dieter, C.G.C.S., Editor
5106 N. 33rd Street
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(703) 538-6489

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