

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

Lee Dieter, C.G.C.S.
Editor

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Courtesy - Nicety Or Necessity

by Steven Potter, CGCS

Most problems incurred on a golf course and in everyday life stem from a lack of courtesy. A major club tournament is to be held on Saturday and you find out on Monday that there are two ladies' guest days with shotgun starts that week. The ladies are upset when noisy work must be carried out throughout these entire guest days. Members are upset when they see you aerifying greens the same day they bring an out of town guest. You go to dinner without reservations and have to wait an hour to be seated. You go to a MAAGCS meeting without reservations to find out that they may not be able to accommodate you the same as those who have made reservations. These are just a sampling of the problems that can occur when courtesy is not treated as a necessity.

Courtesy is an obvious solution to these problems, but it is the one most often ignored. People by nature do not like surprises in their everyday lives. Inform your members of any maintenance activity that will disrupt normal play such as aerification. Request a schedule of all golfing dates that do not follow the everyday format like shotgun starts. Call a week in advance for dinner reservations. Call the MAAGCS office for meeting reservations. Grant the people that you will be associating with the same courtesy that you expect yourself. You will be surprised how much smoother every day goes.

President's Message

A sincere thank you to Tom List for hosting our annual event. Sorry I had to miss the meeting, but the general consensus of those who had the good fortune to attend was that the course played well and the accommodations were great.

A special thanks to John Sequi, CGCS for taking time out of a busy schedule to join us and particularly for his certification update. Thanks also to Tom "Hollywood" Regan, CGCS, who certainly knows how to organize an event, and to our sponsors G.L. Cornell Co. and T.E.S.C.O. for their much appreciated support.

The response to Ladies Night was the best ever and perhaps indicates that Ken Ingram, our Social and Benevolence Chairman, has untapped talents. It was a wonderful evening that will be hard to match in the future. Our gratitude to Ken and Columbia Country Club for a most enjoyable and memorable evening.

Fall has crept into the picture a little earlier this year. Maybe crept is too slow a word since the temperatures seemed to plummet rather quickly. Of course we'll moan about this. It's either too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry, too sunny, too overcast, or something.

The climate is never just right and explaining this season after season is difficult. However, since such education on the complexity of our business is essential to furthering our profession, the MAAGCS will publish a series of position papers on the various aspects and procedures involved in our operation.

These will be distributed to the Allied Associations and other interested parties as well as provided to the news media for inclusion in pertinent articles. The goal is to create an awareness that there is a sound scientific reason for the tasks we perform.

Bill Neus is chairing this committee and would welcome your thoughts on potential possibilities.

George Renault, President



Education Notes

by Steven Cohoon, CGCS

The education program for the November meeting of the MAAGCS will feature Mr. Stanley Zontec of the USGA. Mr. Zontec is the regional director, serving the Mid-Atlantic area, for the USGA Greens Section. He has been the guest speaker for this association before, and has been on the program of the Maryland Turfgrass Conference as well. His topics and presentations have always proven both informative and timely and I'm sure this meeting will be no exception. With Winter closing in, clubs are faced with the tough decision about what to do with the golf course. Should they close down completely, use temporary greens and/or tees, or play the course as normal? Mr. Zontec will discuss the pros and cons of the problems associated with Winter play and their effect on our golf courses. He will also fill us in on the problems Winter play causes Bermudagrass, the results of a recent study sponsored by the USGA. So please come one and all to this month's meeting at the Bethesda Country Club. This is an excellent meeting to bring a greens chairman or other club official to. They will be able to hear first hand about a problem most club members know little about. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. Please don't forget to RSVP your reservation to the Mid-Atlantic office. The number once again is (301) 381-0030.

COMING HOME

by Joel A. Ratcliff, CGCS

As many of my fellow superintendents are aware, I have come back to the D.C. Metro area. I started my new position at Indian Spring Country Club on May 25, 1988. The course looked great. This soon changed, as the Valley Course was flooded from 8" of rain. In what seemed like a very short period of time, the reality of summers around the beltway hit me. Temperatures climbed and hovered above 90° (at 11:00 p.m.)! Grass started to disappear. I assume it went to the mountains where life is slow and cool.

I did manage to learn many things this year such as summer patch, brown patch and fusarium blight can and will kill grass. I now know why everybody sprays fairways for pythium. Actually, it is a wonderful disease, as it seems to occur just in time for renovation, eliminating competition for the 10,000 lbs. of ryegrass that we planted on our 36 fairways.

This long hot summer went by rather quickly. I suppose this came from working during all available daylight hours. Traffic has been no problem at all because the beltway moves just fine at 5:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

The best part of all is being close to my peers who are without a doubt some of the finest individuals, with some of the toughest jobs, apart from the one on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Thanks for the welcome home!