September meeting at Leisure World on Wednesday the 12th

by Scott Wagner

Leisure World is a private adult community located in Silver Spring, Md. The community covers approximately 600 acres, with the golf course located on 100 acres directly in the center of the complex.

The golf course was designed by Desmond Muirhead & Associates, and opened for play in 1965. Leisure World golf course, being designed with adult play in mind, measures 5,134 yards from the white tees. The course has a par of 69, and a course rating of 64.2.

The putting greens are a mixture of Bent and Poa, and are very large, averaging 7,100 sq. ft. They are mowed 6 days a week at 5/32". They receive 5 lbs. N, along with 3.5 lbs. K per year.

Our tees consist of the same Bent-Poa mixture as our greens, and are on the same maintenance programs except they are mowed three days a week at 7/16".

Fairways are a rye grass-Poa mix with a very small amount of Common Bermuda scattered here and there. They are mowed three days per week at 5/8", and receive three lbs. N per year.

Our September meeting will begin with cocktails from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m., at a cost of $25. Hope to see you Wednesday September 12th at Leisure World.

Guest speaker: Dr. Tom Turner will be the guest speaker at the September meeting. He will speak about his many and varied experiences on golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic area this year.

DIRECTIONS

From Baltimore: Take I-70 west to Route 97 (Georgia Avenue). Take 97 south 17 miles. Leisure World will be on your left.

From Washington: take I- 495 to Route 97 (Georgia Avenue). Take 97 north 6.8 miles. Leisure World will be on your right.

Golf Notes

Our September meeting will be the site of the 2nd annual two-man team championship. There will be a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. Everyone should have received their entry form by now. Please return the form, ASAP, as I will need a good count to know how many golf carts to order.

Following golf we will have bus service to our club house where showers will be available. Please bring your own towel.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With great weather and an even better turnout, the August picnic was a great time for all. Rhys Author did a magnificent job in preparing for the crowd. Now it's on to Ross Moor, Leisure World and the two-man team championship.

How would you like to work in a place called Leisure World? Scott Wagner tells me that you don't have to come to work until 11, coffee break till 12, lunch till 2, nap till 3, and then the chauffeur drives you home. Is this a great country or what?

My partner Jim Adams and I have been practicing diligently so as to give you all the sound thrashing you deserve. Make sure you note the date change to Wednesday, September 12. See you there!

Bill Neus, C.G.C.S. President

Phone number change alert! Mark your Roladex:
Dr. Tom Turner, 301-405-1338
Dr. Pete Dernoeden, 301-405-1337

Note: The meeting for October has been changed to October 2. Dr. Joe Duich is the speaker.

RESERVATIONS
(301) 381-0030
by Jack McClennen

It’s mid-August and another hot day. I think it was hot weather that put the skids on my golf course career. It started when I installed an air-conditioner in my office in 1969. What a hot year! You would listen to the weather report at night and it would be 95 degrees with a relative humidity that paralleled that number. Hot! Hotter than high school love.

Fungus was germinating on the outside of Zineb bags. It was so bad we had to store the fungicides in the club room freezer to get control of the pythium eating up the fungicide. It was a tough year! Hot!

And you know how hard it is to get a crew to work in weather like that. I was cranky. And, like I said, the crew went from lethargic to dormant. I didn’t have the greatest crew in the world to start with. The major decision of their day was whether to have Ripple or Sterno with lunch.

The members, as always, were grumbling about my management of the crew. One day they found old Herb sleeping in the woods, and reported it to my greens chairman. My chairman in his stern and officious voice asked me what I intended to do about Herb. I told him, “No problem, I’ll stencil Ground Under Repair on his tee shirt. That way, if he’s taking a nap and they hit a ball near or under him, they’ll get a free drop. I’ll tell them not to yell ‘Fore!’ though, because he gets real nasty if you wake him up before quitting time.” Thus, Herb became Golf’s first living designated Ground Under Repair.

When Herb’s liver gave out, we made a little memorial in the woods. We circled it with lime and made an outline of his body like the police do with a homicide victim. Thinking back, it still tugs at my Irish heartstrings.

But, back to the story. On reflection, maybe it wasn’t the air-conditioner that put the skids on my career. Maybe it was the floating duck house launching; I can’t be sure. But, let me tell you about the famous floating duck house.

Each spring the members’ kids would get ducks for Easter. The kids loved the little creatures, but only for a few weeks. Then the calls would come: “Can we bring the ducks out to the golf course pond?” “Sure, sure, no problem.” Eventually, we built up a real herd of Quackers. The quackers were loved by all, in spite of the fact that they turned the seventh green into a litter box. The duck poop made the green so sticky you didn’t have to water it to make it hold a shot. If the stimp meter had existed back then (and thank heavens it didn’t) it would have rolled about a foot. It was like covering the green with a mixture of double aught grease and day-old snot. A lot of guys didn’t use a putter but tried to pitch and run with a seven iron on a long putt.

Anyway, you get the picture. In spite of all this, most everyone loved the ducks, especially the neighborhood dogs. Jack, Herb and the rest of the crew were secretly cheering for the dogs.

One of the bleeding hearts at the club finally donated enough money to build the club’s first floating duck house to stop the dog attacks. What a duck house! I’ve been on worse cruise ships. Besides that, I thought maybe it would be a way to save the assault on the seventh green, which by now had corn germinating. I found out that ducks don’t digest corn any better than we do. At least it germinated in the aerator holes; even in bent grass it had a tidy geometric appearance.

But what a duck house! Now, to keep the duck house from floating to shore, we decided to take half a barrel, fill it with concrete, and use it for an anchor after maneuvering the duck house to the center of the pond. The anchor was great. We attached ten feet of chain, secured it, and loaded it on the floating duck house. The big day came. As the benefactor and greens committee gathered, we launched the Great Duck House. Everybody cheered.

I wish I could end the story right now, but responsible journalism demands I go on. When the Great Floating Duck House was centered in the pond, Herb, who was sitting on the floater, was to take his legs and push the anchor off the boat thus assuring it wouldn’t drift to shore where the dogs could munch on the ducks. After pushing the anchor off, Herb was to get in a small boat and come back to shore. Simple enough, right? Wrong! Herb pushed the anchor with the ten foot long chain off the duck house. Great plan. However, the pond was fourteen feet deep! This caused an unforeseen event: the catapulting and launching of old... continued on back page.
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Herb. Herb did a great cannonball against his will from the great and now half submerged duck house. In short order, we also found out old Herb didn’t know how to swim. The group of dignitaries present gasped briefly, then in unison and without discussion or vote proclaimed me one dumb S.O.B.

But, after years of reflection, I don’t believe it was Sleeping Herb or the great duck house, but the newly installed air-conditioner that finished off my career. Let me go on.

Think of the hottest weather in which you have ever worked; and when you hear the rest of the story, I’m sure you’ll understand. Sitting in my office with the thermostat set at 68 degrees, my greens chairman walks in and asks me, “What’s wrong with the thirteenth green?” I say to him, “I don’t know; what’s it look like? Since I got this new air conditioner I don’t like to go out on the course when it’s this hot.” I say, “Do me a favor, grab the cup cutter and take a plug, send it down to tech and let me know what they think.” He goes crazy and starts screaming obscenities. (You try to help someone and they turn on you like a dog to a duck). So I say, “Ok, if that’s too much trouble, take this Polaroid camera, take some shots and bring the pictures back to my office (my air-conditioned office), and maybe I can figure something out. Just be careful driving out there, the crew is probably taking a nap in the woods.”

He simply reached over and pulled the plug from my air conditioner.

Jack McClenahan is a turf equipment sales representative with G.L. Cornell Company.

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