



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
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NEXT MEETING

The April meeting of the MAGCSA will be held Monday, April 12 at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, Va. Our host will be Marcus Pleasants. This will also be the annual joint meeting with the Central Virginia group.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

From the North, take Routes 29-211 to Route 250. Go west on 250 to the club on the right. From the south, head west on Route 250 through Charlottesville to the club.

NEW ARRIVALS

Karen and Virgil Robinson from Chantilly National Golf and C.C. reported an new addition on February 14. It was a real chunk of a boy, Matthew Aaron and he weighed in at 8 pounds 3 ozs.

And not to be outdone, Janet and Dave Fairbank from Lakewood C.C. showed up with a 7 pound 4 oz boy named Richard Scott on February

That's great! Let's just hope these guys take their dads' lead and start mowing grass when they're about 4 years old.

MEETING PLACES

The following is a list of the meeting places for the rest of the year. Cut it out or copy it down, but here it is is.

April 12 Monday Farmington C.C. Host . . . Marcus Pleasants

May 11, Beaver Creek C.C. Host . . . Bert Yingling

June 8, Bonnie View C.C. Host. . . Lou Rudinski

July 13, Picnic, Island View C.C. Host. . . Bob Martino

August 4 Wednesday, U.S.D.A. Field Day Host. . . Dr. Felix Juska

September 14, Joint with Philadelphia, Kennet Sq. C.C. Host. . . Paul Weldin

October 5, 1st Tuesday, Golf Tournament, Woodmont C.C. Host. . . Bob Shields

November 9, Bethesda C.C., Host. . . Grafton Lumsden

December 14, Hobbits Glen C.C., Host . . . Chip McDonald

STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

Requests for student memberships, which is a Class L in the new by-laws that you received were read at the last board meeting. There were four young men who requested this, all of them students at the U of Md. in the turf course and their names are as follows: E.J. Palmer, Jerry Gould, E.L. Beacraft and C.J. Rasnic.

We're pleased to put these young men on our membership and mailing list and hope we can both benefit each other.

While reviewing memberships, one new application for a Class D active was received. It was from Michael McKenzie, 626 Walker Road in Great Falls, Va. Mike is Tom Haske's assistant at River Bend C.C. in Great Falls. His application was signed by Bob Shields and George Cleaver.

As is standard procedure, if no written objection is received within 30 days, he shall be accepted as a member.

Just a reminder to our members - if you wish to change your membership status in the Mid Atlantic, you must also change in the National. This means you must write two letters, one to them and one to us. We cannot change your status for you.

THANK YOU NOTE

The following note was received by Russel Kerns from Dr. Langford.

Mr. Russell W. Kerns
Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club
Box 104
Berlin, Maryland 21811

Dear Russell:

This note is to express appreciation and thanks to the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association for the recognition given me at the Baltimore meeting. The T.V. is performing beautifully and I know Mrs. Langford and I will enjoy it for years to come.

The gift and recognition was a complete surprise to me. I have enjoyed working with the Mid-Atlantic group through the years and the opportunity to work with the golf course superintendents has been one of the more pleasant memories in my work career.

Please express my appreciation to all of the Mid-Atlantic membership.

With best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,
George S. Langford
State Entomologist

WESTWARD HO!

Angie Cammarota from Indian Spring drew up a list of members with and without their wives who made the trip to Denver. There were 58 members and 15 wives. Anyway you cut it, that's a heck of a good turnout. Here's who went:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. R. Valentine, Mr. and Mrs. W. Stedding, Mr. and Mrs. M. Wilkins, Mr. and Mrs. L. Dieter, Mr. and Mrs. S. Kessel, Mrs. and Mrs. K. Lohr, Mr. and Mrs. D. Hammersley, Mr. and Mrs. G. Gerard, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ault, Mr. and Mrs. R. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. R. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kerns, Mr. and Mrs. G. Riddle, Mr. A. Arch, Mr. R. Bingham, Mr. R. Bull, Mr. B. Bornhorn, Mr. K. Baker, Mr. L. Brown, Mr. R. Hawthorne, Mr. T. Harris, Mr. J. Gross, Mr. J. Strickland, Mr. F. Staffieri, Mr. J. Cantwell, Mr. G. White, Mr. M. Liska, Mr. G. Banks, Mr. E. Dembnicki, Mr. G. Shapiro, Mr. W. Black, Mr. A. Cammarota, Mr. J. McDonald, Mr. W. Wright, Mr. E. Blizzard, Mr. R. Hall, Mr. T. Comalli, Mr. A. Watson, Mr. R. Orazi, Mr. L. Rudinski, Mr. G. Cleaver, Mr. R. Silvar, Mr. T. Dorer, Mr. W. Livingston, Mr. B. Yingling, Mr. G. Lumsden, Mr. G. Thompson, Mr. A. MacCurrach, Mr. R. Anderson, Mr. W. Peterson, Mr. R. Martino, Mr. D. McCammon, Mr. B. Whetsell, Mr. B. Hitchcock, Mr. D. Canavan, Mr. E. Heath.

GOLF RESULTS

Well the tournament in Phoenix is over, much to the disgust of many who played it, and our team did a

fine job. The team was made up of Bob Martino, who placed 4th in low net, Frank Staffieri, Tony Arch and Gene Banks. There seemed to be a lot of dissatisfaction about the tourney - bad organization, long way from facilities, public course, expensive greens fees and others. Wonder why the entire affair was turned over to a travel bureau? Anyway, congratulations to our team who did well in spite of all the problems. Keep hitting them and we'll get them next year!!

TIME FOR TIME

The March 8 issue of Time magazine had the following two articles which blended in well with the growing anxiety to play golf now that spring is here.

When Astronaut Alan B. Shepard carried the game of golf to new heights last month he claimed one of his private moon shots - unhindered by any air or much gravity - went "miles and miles." Ha! says Dr. Gordon Swann of the U.S. Geological Survey, who has studied the photographs and sees a ball about 20 yards from the tee off point. "Around the moon - plus 20 yards," cracks Shepard. But the ball in the photo was not the "miles-and-miles" shot anyway, he adds; that one, he re-estimates, went about 400 yards - "not bad for a six-iron."

Shepard's reputation as the world's most famous golfer was short-lived. That spotlight has been pre-empted by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, whose recent bopping of three onlookers in a single day's club swinging loosed a flood of wisecracking on a global scale. Comedian Bob Hope made his contribution at a White House dinner last week. "Some people," he said, "think President Nixon should send Agnew to Laos with a three-wood." Noting that the Vice President has earned a "black belt in golf," Hope said that he did not mind golfing with Agnew, even though "it's hard to concentrate on a play when the entire gallery is reciting the Lord's Prayer."

IDLE THOUGHTS

Did you know that common union laborers in 8 cities over the U.S. with a population of over 100,000 or more average \$4.50 per hour? How much does your best man make?

It has really been a wet spring so far with a lot of water damage from run-off over frozen ground. Be prepared for a lot of flak from erosion conscious members.

This is a hard time of year — most of the inside work is done and it is too wet and cold to get out on the course. No wonder everyone is getting edgy.

FUNGUS HEAD SAYS:

You know it's going to be a rough year when a member says, "At least the TEES look good" and you know they're all knotweed.

You know it's going to be a rough year when you're looking for the man running the Giant leaf vacuum and all you can find are his shoes.

You know it's going to be a rough year when you call the Soil Conservation Service about erosion problems and they're in your fairways.

You know it's going to be a rough year when you told the man changing cups to make them interesting and your chairman just putted out in a sand trap.

You know it's going to be a rough year when you see your new mechanic adjusting a carburetor with a chisel and a hammer.

GUEST EDITORIAL

As you are all aware, Bill Smart from the HVGCSA is the editor of the "Foreground", their chapter publication.

In the latest issue, Bill has an article which is just the thing for us all to read now that we are going into the busy spring season and starting a new growing year. I read it twice and was so impressed by the way he lays it on the line that I am foregoing my usual bit of editorial malice that appears each month and am reprinting the whole thing. It bears close reading and much self-analysis. Where do YOU fit?

COVER YOURSELF AT ALL TIMES

I know of 6 Superintendents that lost jobs last Fall. With one exception they were established, mature men (the exception was under 30) who were simply told their contract would not be renewed. Not one to my knowledge was told their work was unsatisfactory. One was told he spent too much, but each expenditure had been OK'd and he had warned the Chairman that the budget would be exceeded. The most common reason was the cutting of expenses, but in no case was the Supt. asked to submit a lower budget for the next year

and in at least one case the Supt. told me he COULD have cut the budget by the amount of his salary without affecting the playability of the course. In three cases the Asst. Supt. was moved up to the top slot. In the other cases the club immediately started interviewing, offering the former salary.

I frankly admit I do not know all the facts in even one case. The men involved admit that they do not know all the facts. One fact stands out in all cases (with the possible exception of one) the unexpected dismissal (one man had expected a raise) was done in an almost shamefaced manner with no reasonable explanation.

No club can be faulted for refusing to renew the services of a man who was not doing his job or carrying out the wishes of the club. And surely in some of the cases there must have been personality conflicts and less than satisfactory performance. My point is that these men are looking over their shoulder and saying, "What did I do?" We, who are still in the positions we hold should look ahead and say, "What can I do."

DON'T GET COMPLACENT: This is an insidious thing that eases up on you. You have a few years under your belt and frankly opening day does not really thrill you anymore. You tend to operate on fixed schedules and refuse to consider any change that means greater effort or planning. You are aware of defects in the course but your members accept them and so do you. Can't you just hear some eager beaver on the board getting up and saying, "Let's get some fresh blood in from the Univ. of Mass. and shape up this old lay-out."

WATCH YOUR MOUTH: Someone put it this way, "Superintendents talk too much to the wrong people". Don't feel that you have to justify every move on the course to your golfers. The golfer who lends a sympathetic ear to your troubles with the over-wet 14th green will be just the guy who will go back to the club with his new found knowledge and complain about the 14th being a hog-wallow — You see he never knew it WAS poorly drained. A woman member said to me a few years ago, "I never knew clover was bad on a golf course till someone told me — now it seems that every lie I get is on clover." I got some bad vibrations last season when good old soft-headed Smart was trying the public relation bit by showing some members the dung beetle. The damage was slight and would have been overlooked, but I had to call it to their attention and this was the

feed-back I received. (1) It was Japanese beetle and I should have sprayed for it years ago. (2) The dung beetle was going to destroy all the fairways and there was no known insecticide that would kill them. (3) It was so bad we had to call in the experts in (USGA). So talk things over with your Green Chairman, give him good reports and no surprises. Then he can tell the members what they should know. Chances are he is a better liar than you anyhow and can tell them with more pizzazz. Another thing, don't burden the Chairman with all the problems you have day to day. He couldn't care less that the fairway tractor had a flat and you had to keep the guy an hour overtime to finish up. You handle that and only let him in on the big stuff.

WATCH THAT SOCIETY RAMBLE: Don't get too at home in the clubhouse, do what you have to and get out. Don't dawdle over coffee or something stronger during business hours. By actual survey I have found that 50% of the members will remark on your presence in the club when this and that needs attention on the course. 10% will actually feel inclined to resign over this dereliction of duty and the fact that you get the quaffables for free. By the same token don't flaunt your new Cadillac, low golf scores (for God's sake stay out of tournaments if you score - or at least disqualify yourself from prizes) and by all means, watch your step around the ladies. No matter how much it wiggles resist that impulse to stroke it - or even give it an encouraging word. Nuff said.

DON'T BE A KNOW IT ALL: Some of the best advice I ever got came from the Treasurer at my first club. He said, "If someone asks you a question and you don't know the answer, say, 'I don't know, but I can find out.'" No one man knows all the answers to all the turf questions that could be asked. Don't fake it because you figure the guy (the layman) doesn't know either - someone could have put him up to pinning you down on a sticky wicket.

DON'T EVER FIGURE YOU ARE GOD'S GIFT TO GOLF COURSES: Every time I have reached this plateau I have been brought down to earth by a semi-disaster of monumental stupidity - on my part. Regular readers will remember the memorable Sodium Arsenite in the tank boo-boo when I just about blew the back nine greens. You also learn in these times of stress there are always members who can take your talent or leave it - they are just not that enamored of your personal and professional charm.

WATCH YOUR BUDGET: Don't go over unless someone puts it in writing with copies to all concerned. Be prepared to justify all purchases as to need, cost and supplier. Many a man has got all kinds of grief from some little niggly purchase that was out of line. Let's say some kind soul bought a hot plate for the shop so the boys could have hot coffee. The Treas. calls the board's attention to the \$20 item and they ask the chairman how come the greens budget is buying a coffee stove - then the board works over the Green Chairman as to who supplies the coffee and cream - how about rolls? - they are kidding but underneath is a current of Is Something Out of Line Here? Then the Supe and the chairman meet. The Chairman now takes out his aggravation on the turf-fighter. It is almost never the amount that is spent - it is what for and how.

DON'T FUSS WITH OTHER DEPT. HEADS: If the Pro is your buddy, fine (keep your lip zipped about Greens Commiteee business). If you can't stand him don't bad mouth him to others or do any spite work. This guy can be a big help if he is inclined, he can also do a little knife work through his 100% contact with the members. He often has social contact (via the cocktail party route) with a good percentage of the golfers. No matter how you slice it the Pro is in - compared to him you are an outsider. Do your level best to at least get along, it's worth it. Same for Manager, Asst. Manager and any others with clout. If this sounds in the least unprofessional, I apologize to those I may offend. But as Sgt. Friday said, "Those are the facts, Ma'am."

IS HE YOUR ASSISTANT OR YOUR REPLACEMENT: I have left this touchy business till last. Do you run scared of the man who would take over if you dropped dead tomorrow? Should we keep all the knowledge and skills of our craft to ourselves lest he get to know too much? Some have said they will do just that. Others have said they want no assistant. It is hard to quarrel with a man who saw his job taken by an unproven man with limited experience and training. (The course in question gave the Asst. a 30 day trial and signed him up. The 30 days was the month of OCTOBER.) How about this for hard nose thinking. Turf school grads should never be hired as assistants for the long haul. Good ambitious students will stay till (1) they get enough practical experience (2) Till they locate a course of their own. So on the average the Supt. has a

man till he gets good and then he loses him, locates another graduate and repeats the cycle. Assistants should preferably be from your own crew, intelligent but with limited education. Train him show him everything you know. If he gets real good and shows the sign of wanting command, YOU find him a job - if he can't cut it he will be back. Many a son of a Supt. has worked for his Dad as Asst. - but they too go as they mature.

I am all for Turf Grads getting jobs, however Supers should be aware of their limitations as to tenure in job. I think the system is bass-ackwards anyway. High school grads should work on a course for a few years and THEN go and get the training that they will better understand and appreciate. The older age of the graduate would also work in his favor when it came time to get his own course. Another thought. Call that turf a Trainee till he is worthy of the Asst. Supt. Title.

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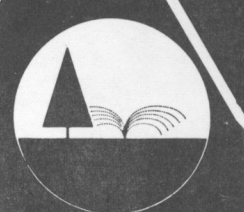
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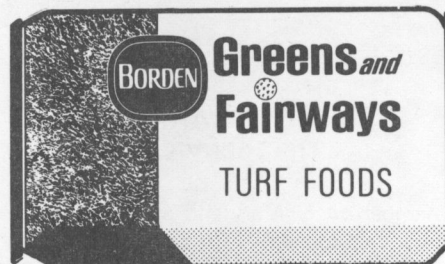
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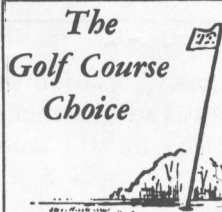
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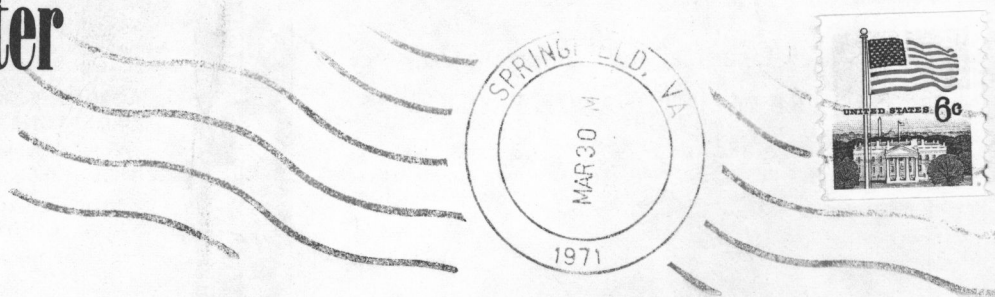
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