



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the  
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA will be held at Springfield Golf and Country Club on MARCH 8. Please note the date and mark it on your calendar so you won't miss it. It will be the first MONDAY instead of Tuesday. The host super will be Denny McCammon.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

From 495 (Beltway), exit at 4S onto 95 toward Richmond. Bear hard right and get off at the Springfield exit (Rt. 644) and head west. Stay on 644 thru Springfield for about 3 miles. The club is on the left.

From the south coming up 95, exit at the Springfield ramp and follow the directions above.

## NEW ADVERTISERS

Starting with last month's Newsletter, we picked up one new advertiser, Henry Carroll from the Baltimore area. We would like to say "hello" and "thanks" not only to just the new ads but to our old sponsors as well. It is these people who make this publication possible as well as making many other things available to us. Let's support ALL our advertisers as they support us. And if you know of any other potential people who might be interested in seeing their company in print, have them contact the editor or the Secretary-Treasurer for further information.

## VPI TURF CONFERENCE

The VPI Conference was held at Fredericksburg on January 26 - 27 and was attended by nearly 300 people. Bob Shields had the pleasure of presenting two scholarships from the GCSAA to two turf students from Tech. They were presented to Michael Torrance and David Whitt, both juniors in the turf management option.

## EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

Well, here it is March again and just one year ago

we sent out the employment survey forms. At that time we felt it would be an excellent idea to put this on an annual basis which we are doing this year.

To keep things current, for class A and B members, a questionnaire and return envelope is enclosed. Please fill out the form and return it as soon as possible. Naturally, all individual results will be kept confidential and only the final summary will be made public. Last year we had 71% of the forms returned. That's not enough! Let's make it 100% this year. No one in the area has THAT good a budget that it can't be tabulated and who knows? It might even get YOU a raise!!

## EDITORIAL

Having just returned from the VPI conference, one thing was obvious. There is a need for a consolidation of the two conferences held each year. Many people have voiced their opinion in complete agreement and it is not without merit. The Baltimore conference had over 250 people and the one at Fredericksburg had nearly 300. True, there is some overlapping of speakers and registrants, but not that much. A conference each year with both groups meeting in a central location could well be one of the largest gatherings of this type in the country and if handled correctly, could well be the most informative as well.

The Cleveland area group has been holding a meeting of this very type for 2 or 3 years and the success and reputation has been more than just a mention.

One advantage of this type of meeting is that with the University of Md. and VPI both participating, a good cross section of the work and research from both schools can be studied and adapted to our own particular area. Unfortunately, as it is now, the areas where the research is being conducted often doesn't lend itself to a golf course, a park or recreational use due to several reasons. But with this "pooling of efforts" maybe this could be eliminated in part.

Another good thing that came of the meeting this winter was the fact that both commercial and academic researchers were made a little more aware of the fact that the golf course super wants these experiments to apply to HIS conditions. Disease, nutrient and/or irrigation studies can be done on grass under no stress cut at 2½ inches, but where do you find these conditions on any golf course?

Grass growing under controlled environmental conditions can hardly be considered representative for our particular use or needs. And this was made known to several reps from both areas. The result? Well, agreement for one and verbal commitment on the part of at least two people that area supers would at least be contacted to see if they would like to have some tests run on some areas of their courses. There are a few clubs involved in this type of program now, but more are needed, especially in this area. All it takes is a little interest on the part of the super to find an area on his 200 acres to run the tests.

Believe it or not, SOME companies and university people ARE looking for clubs to do this on. And YOU are the guys to let them know they can!!

#### MORE

From the comments received, both pro and con, over the furor that arose about the job at Oak Hill C.C. in Rochester, N.Y. that Lynn Kellogg left, another letter came in concerning the problem. It was written to Lynn by Gordon Whitteveen, the President of the Canadian GCSA and a copy was sent on by Bill Smart to us. The entire text of the letter follows the next editorial comment.

All general manager - superintendent relationships are not bad and for anyone to make a broad generalization to that extent would be grossly in error. The relationship depends on the rapport and willingness established between the two men and to what extent each man exerts himself. There are a few clubs here in the Mid Atlantic area with a general manager, one of which is Springfield. The G.M. just assumed the position but as yet it looks as tho he has no intention of telling the super (me) or the crew how to do our jobs. Naturally the situation has many variables. But here or at ANY club where the G.M. tries to overstep from his realm into ours, then it's time for action!

Dear Lynn:

Today I received Bill Smart's H.V. Newsletter and was shocked to learn about your problems with Oak Hill C.C. The confrontation between General Manager or Executive Director and the Golf Course Superintendent is coming to a head at many clubs. The phenomenon is not just limited to the U.S. since it frequently occurs in Canada as well.

Your courageous stand deserves a great deal of admiration. I will do my best to have it publicized in our National Magazine, "The Greenmaster". Your action will serve as an example to a great many superintendents in our Country. I can only hope that the clubs confronted with this problem will have more wisdom than the Directors at Oak Hill. We both know that good golf superintendents are a rare commodity, whereas Managers come a dime a dozen. I have been a superintendent for fifteen years at three different clubs, and during that time I have worked WITH (not for) about fifteen managers.

This past summer I wrote Norman Kramer (Pres. GCSAA) expressing my concern about our failure as an Association to take a stand on this matter. I did not receive a reply. When Ben Chlevin visited Toronto some time ago, I again brought up the matter and was somewhat enlightened but certainly not satisfied. I will now again write to Norm urging him to take action or to at least take an official stand on this matter. In the November issue of "The Greenmaster" I make mention of it under the President's message.

In the meantime I hope that you have found suitable employment elsewhere. I have always recognized you as an ingenious superintendent, and I am sure you have enough sidelines to look after yourself. There are some attractive openings in Canada and if you are interested, please let me know and I will provide you with the details.

As for Oak Hill, I predict that they will go the same way as most clubs where the G.M. is in charge of the golf course. There will be a succession of three or four superintendents, combined with advice of half a dozen consultants and it won't be long before the entire place will turn into a veritable cow pasture. At that time they will hire another qualified superintendent at triple your salary and let him operate without interference. Then there will be another General Manager with

ambitions and so on ad infinitum, unless, we as an Association can get this thing straightened out collectively.

I wish you all the best, and if there is anything I can do for you, do not hesitate to let me know.

Best personal regards  
Gordon Witteveen

## JOBS OPEN

Buddy Loving sent notice of two jobs being open in the near future and he is to be notified if you wish any further details. Phone numbers are: 703-295-6332, 703-293-4249, 703-296-5661.

Confederate Hills C.C., Estate Development Corp., Box 64 Highland Springs, Va. This is an 18 hole course now under construction. They hope to open at least 9 holes by late summer. They also want to hire a golf course superintendent in the very near future.

Lake Monticello, owned by Faulener Construction Company. This is an 18 hole course planning to open either late this fall or in the spring of 1972. They want a golf course superintendent about June or July. This development is about 20 miles east of Charlottesville, Va.

## WINTER'S CHALLENGE

Every winter the supervisor ponders just how he is going to keep his men busy during the long winter months. There is, of course, no problem in this respect during the remaining months of the year but "Ole Man Winter" challenges the superintendent's imagination and ingenuity.

Winter means tree transplanting time to the horticultural crews of the Park Department in Montgomery County, Maryland. Of course, we realize that spring and fall is the recommended time of year for this type of endeavor, but a busy schedule during the optimum time of year dictates that we must accomplish this type of work "out of season".

We have found that transplanting shade trees and SELECTED evergreen trees during the winter months can be a most successful venture, as we have experienced 95% success over a period of several years.

## RAMBLINGS

This winter hasn't been as bad as everyone expected -- at least not yet! Of course, guys like Bert Yingling haven't seen bare ground since the first week in November. But he's in the mountains and doesn't even start mowing until the 6th of June anyway.

Remember how hard the wind blew the last week in January? Dick Fisher at Goose Creek reported a 35 mph gust INSIDE his shop! Dick says he also has his rain gauge set up inside the shop. Keeps the kids from stealing it!

Try painting your ball washers with epoxy paint. It holds a lot better than regular enamel. The important thing is to make sure the surface is cleaned of old paint because that paint will lift off the old finish like a pair of overalls.

About the easiest way to fill gear boxes on the gang mowers is to remove the end off the hose on one of your grease guns and pump the 1 pint of concrete consistency lube into the side plates. It is a lot easier than trying to heat the grease and it smells better too.

## REPRINT

The Boston Herald Tribune carried the following item on December 12. Sort of makes your vandalism problem seem small, doesn't it?

ROSARIO, Argentina (AP) -- The first foursome on the course was astounded to find that the 15th green had disappeared from the Rosario Golf Club course here.

Puzzled course officials said someone apparently cut the entire turf on the 15th green into manageable-size pieces and took them away during the night.

Course officials were wondering whether some frustrated golf buff had concluded that "if you can't beat them, steal them," or maybe had just taken the green home for practice.

The mechanics of this operation involve the following methods:

**SELECTION:** Select trees to be transplanted throughout the year so that your winter plans are formulated well in advance.

**DIGGING:** Dig the trees with a tapered soil ball using the rule of thumb of a 9" to 10" ball per inch diameter of the tree. For example, a 4" caliper tree would require a 36" to 40" ball, approximately 2 to 2½ feet deep.

**BURLAP & WIRE:** Wrap the soil ball with burlap using nails to pin it together. Then cover the outside with hog wire (six inch square) which can be purchased in rolls 36 inches wide. Tighten the hog wire with hooks or another appropriate tool, as this strengthens the ball and prevents the soil from cracking or becoming dislodged in the transplanting operation.

**TRANSPLANTING:** When weather permits we favor allowing the ball of a newly dug tree to freeze overnight for ease of handling. The trees are then loaded on trucks for transporting to the new planting location, by using a tractor with a front end loader. Sometimes the ball is placed into the bucket of the tractor directly or a chain can be wrapped around the ball and then attached to the tractor bucket for loading.

**FROZEN SOIL:** Whenever the soil is frozen to a depth of more than 4 inches we use an air hammer to loosen the frozen soil around the prescribed ball. This not only speeds up this operation but also makes it feasible to continue to accomplish this work despite frozen soil conditions. Once you have broken through the frozen soil the soil will handle just as well as during any other season of the year.

Frozen soil should NEVER be used in replanting a tree as it causes air pockets which are detrimental to the tree's survival. During the planting operation we incorporate generous portions of leaf mold into the planting soil, which I consider to be one of the reasons for our outstanding success in tree transplanting.

**MULCHING:** The soil remaining after the planting operation can be utilized in forming a saucer around the tree. This saucer is filled with leaf mold as a mulch at the completion of the planting. The saucer helps to retain the mulch around the tree and also aids as a means to hold water.

**GUYING & WATERING:** The final step is to secure the tree in the ground by staking for shade trees and by guy wiring evergreen trees in a tripod fashion using shorter stakes. We try to water newly planted trees during the warm dry months for two years following transplanting - must if you want to be successful!

Another suggestion for winter work is deciduous tree pruning. Pruning during the dormant period is certainly preferable to other seasons of the year for many reasons. Some of the advantages are: you can observe and assess the work to be accomplished far better in the winter when the leaves are not on the trees; the wounds will not bleed when the trees are dormant; and usually have the time to do the work. Be sure to paint a tree wound dressing on cuts that are larger than a penny.

Evergreen trees can be pruned during the winter season also, but if you are concerned about the pruning cuts being visible it is advisable to do this pruning in March and soon the new growth will hide the cuts and the tree will once again become full and graceful.

Here's every best wish for happy and successful transplanting and pruning.

Carl E. Schoening  
Chief Horticulturist  
Department of Parks  
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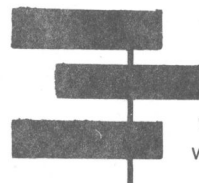
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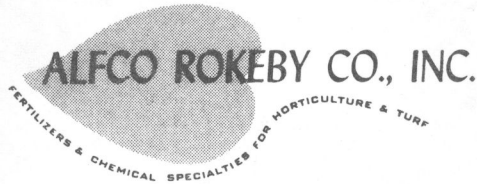
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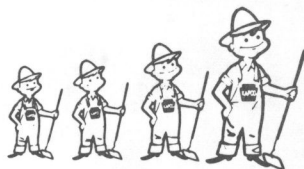
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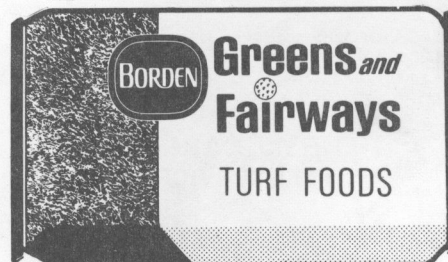
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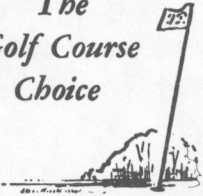


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