



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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## MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Do you ever get the feeling that you are the only one who gives a damn about your golf course? I get this feeling almost every time I impose restrictions on play. Every Country Club has its share of soap box orators. Does this sound familiar: "How come we can't use carts; they're using them at So & So Country Club and we drain better than they do. The golf course is in good shape but you won't let us use it, and what are you saving the course for, the season's almost over?"

During the month of June in which all of us had over a foot of rain we heard this type statement many times. As always we are in an impossible situation, whatever decision is made is unpopular with certain people. You are criticized when you close and when you open, when you restrict carts and when you don't. This was the first year I've heard people say, "why did he let carts go today, he isn't using his authority properly." Regardless of what restrictions are needed, this is a Superintendent's Decision and he should have written into his contract or have some written authority from the Board stating this. I don't believe a superintendent can be held responsible for course conditions if he doesn't have the right to restrict play. Any Green's Chairman who takes this responsibility on himself has got to be crazy. He has his own business to run; if he ran out to the course everytime it rained, he would be bankrupt. I've seen many a good superintendent leave the business because that authority has been wrestled away from him. We are all in this business because we enjoy it, we certainly are not in it for the money.

I hope you have enjoyed the Spring of 1972 more than I have.

George B. Thompson Pres.

## AUGUST MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be August 8, at the Country Club of Fairfax. Our host will be Sam Kessel. Golf can be played anytime after 12 noon. Cocktails will be at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00.

Directions to the club: From the Virginia Beltway take the Braddock Road exit #5 west (Route 620) about 6 miles to

route 123. Turn left and the club will be about one and one-half miles on the right.

## JULY FAMILY PICNIC

A warm sunny day, an ocean breeze, good food and good company all contributed to making our annual picnic a big success. Out Eastern Shore Supers really know how to control the weather. Russell Kerns and Lou White even provided us with a momentary solar eclipse of the sun to provide shade for the sunburned beach bathers. The beach and water were so relaxing that our hosts had a difficult time getting everybody over to the picnic tables and off the beach.

Steamed hard shell crabs with a keg of ice cold beer, followed by a huge barbequed chicken dinner, capped off our day of family recreation. Wouldn't it be nice to do that every weekend!

## NOTE FROM NATIONAL GCSAA

GCSAA HEADQUARTERS -- Readers of THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT are reminded that because the 44th GCSAA Conference and Show will be held January 7-12 1973, in Boston, Massachusetts, a month earlier than in past years, it has become necessary to change the publication's schedule.

It will be issued as follows for the remainder of the year: August/September, October/November and December (Special show issue). The journal will continue to follow its rigid mailing schedule of the first week of each publishing month and readers can still expect to receive their copies early in July, August, October and December.

## GOLF COURSE

*Golfer, dear golfer, please lend me your ear.  
I'm here to give you beauty; I'm here to give you cheer.  
But I'm littered by your beer cans, your cigarette  
wrappers and such.*

*That I can't stay nice with all this crap. It really is to much.  
So won't you please take care of me as if I were your own.  
Won't you please help keep me beautiful like you do your  
home.*

*Oh, and, thanks -- I needed that !*