

# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Published by  
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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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Immediate past president, Bert Yingling, is chairman of the 1973 Nominating Committee. He and members of his committee are responsible for selecting class A members who will best represent the Mid-Atlantic in years to come.

If you have been asked to run for office, it is because you have shown interest and have good leadership qualities. The Mid-Atlantic needs good direction and leadership, and only through the introduction of new blood and new ideas will we continue to best serve our membership.

George B. Thompson Pres.

## OCTOBER MEETING - EAGLES NEST GOLF COURSE

Our last meeting featured our annual Mid-Atlantic golf tournament and was highlighted by Geoffrey Cornish, well known golf course architect, who was our guest speaker for the evening.

Bill Emerson our host superintendent, ran a well organized meeting and provided all the tournament entries with a challenging, well manicured golf course. One unique feature of Bill's course is his huge, oversize collars. The collars were bent and cut just slightly higher than the green. Bill also had large bent tees, all very level and well elevated. Bill cuts his collars and tees with a riding triplex greens mower and thereby provides his members with a neat, low cut, teeing surface.

Eagles Nest Golf Course is only two years old and is already showing signs of maturity. Every hole has extensive landscaping. Trees were carefully positioned, which challenge any golfer to cut off a dogleg.

Our Annual Tournament brought out a field of 59 golfers, largest ever for the year. David Fairbank, our golf committee chairman, obviously worked long hours preparing for this tournament, for which we all are grateful.

## ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

59 Golfers - \$500 in Prizes

### Class A & B Championship Flight

1st and 2nd low gross - Bill Glover Trophies - Tied

Tom Comalli  
Craig Rhoderick

Play-off Norbeck Country Club

3rd low gross - Dick Fisher  
1st low net - Rubin Heinz Trophy - Ron Hall  
2nd low net - Virgil Robinson  
3rd low net - Sam Kessel  
4th low net - Ralph Strough

### Class A & B Handicap Flight

1st low net - Rubin Heinz Trophy - Gillie Shapiro  
2nd low net - Rubin Heinz Trophy - David Fairbank  
3rd low net - Lee Deiter  
4th low net - Bob Orazi  
5th low net - Lou Rudinski

### Class C - D - F - G - H Flight

1st low gross - Mike Whitt  
1st low net - Glen Swenson

### Class E (associate) Flight

1st low gross - George Wingo  
1st low net - Charles Johnson

### Guest Flight

1st low gross - Lee Jarman  
1st low net - N. Steffins

Longest Drive - Paul O'Leary  
Closest to Hole - Vernon Sullivan  
Highest Score - Ralph Strough

Following our superb dinner and oysters we were fortunate to have as our speaker, Mr. Geoffrey Cornish, one of golfs' foremost architects. Mr. Cornish presented a slide presentation illustrating golf course designs. (Mr. Cornish designed Eagles Nest Golf Course in 1969). He stated that golf courses now occupy over 1,850 square miles of land; an area approximately the size of the state of Delaware.

Golf course construction and design will change in the future. As our population rapidly increases choice golf course terrain will become a housing development or will be developed commercially. Rough, hilly, wooded terrain will eventually be the only ground available for a golf course. One slide illustrated a course under construction in the state of Vermont; typical "Vermont sandy loam" was a boulder the size of a house, situated among other "stones" the size of automobiles.

Over the years, course designs have undergone several alterations, most evident being the change from a penal design to a strategic design. A penal design was evident when all hazards of the game were positioned to frequently penalize the average golfer. The updated strategic design offers a long safe route to the green and often a short hazardous route, thereby requiring strategy of the golfer as to whether or not to attempt a difficult shot or play safe.

A good golf hole is one that makes any golfer think before he hits his tee shot. The option of placing a drive over an obstacle or down the middle keeps the course enjoyable for the average golfer. The good player should be challenged with each stroke of his game. He must be forced to calculate the risks of a dogleg he can cut off, or whether or not to carry that fairway trap. Bill Emerson's first hole is a perfect example of a well planned golf hole. A severe dogleg to the right with a challenging access route to the

green from over the trees. The average golfer will stick to the middle of the fairway and will have an open second shot to the green.

The average golfer pays the bulk cost of golf course maintenance and should not be discouraged from playing by being confronted with the "toughest 18 holes this side of the tracks". A golf hole can be challenging with only a well placed tree or trap to govern the tactical play of a hole.

TRAP DESIGN	GREENS	FAIRWAY
World War I	at edge of green	anywhere
World War II	25-30 feet out	150-170 yards out
Contemporary	12-15 feet out	240 yards out on left 220 yards out on right

The contemporary fairway trap design will penalize the good golfer who tries a short cut. An occasional 180 yard fairway trap is still installed to offer the average golfer an obstacle to shoot over.

Old traps were commonly holes in the ground brim full of sand. Today's design offers raised traps with some grass lip or sides to provide aesthetic appeal to the hole as well as not hiding the hazard. Raised traps are better drained and easier to maintain. New traps are also considerably larger in size and vary in design. Frequently 500 to 1,000 cubic yards of sand are required to fill a sand trap today.

Extensive well planned landscaping beautifies the grounds and offers much potential variation for hazards on the course. Once again, Bill Emerson's course is a good example of careful landscape design. Trees are used for barriers between greens and tees, dogleg hazards, erosion control, green backdrops, screens and general beautification. (Carl Schoening, Chief Horticulturist, Department of Parks, M.N.C.P. & P.C. wrote us a good article on the beauty of trees in our May Newsletter.)

Mr. Cornish finished his presentation by pointing out that great golf courses contain the four principles below:

1. Improved design
2. Sound specifications
3. Methodical construction
4. Much landscaping.

#### NOVEMBER 14th MEETING - NORBECK C. C.

Our November meeting will be held at Norbeck Country Club in Rockville, Maryland. Bill Livingston will be our host.

Golf can be played anytime. The social hour will be held at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Our speaker for the evening will be Stephen Megregian, director of water quality control programs for Wapora Inc., a research and consulting firm concerned with pollution control. Mr. Megregian will speak to us on water pollution control and water management.

The subject of water has plagued us all this year and none of us can afford to miss Stephen Megregian's presentation. Proper management of water will always be of primary concern to all golf course superintendents.

Come over early enough to see Bill's newly installed drainage. Bill has just completed installing some 5,000 feet of all kinds of drains on his course. Bill has also installed over 7,000 feet of new cart paths this summer.

Directions to Norbeck Country Club:

Take beltway (495) exit // 21 north on Georgia Avenue. Go approximately 8 miles. Left turn immediately after Brooke Manor golf course (Emory Lane). Right turn on

Cashell Road to Norbeck C. C. 1 mile on the left. Signs will direct you in from Georgia Avenue after reaching Brooke Manor.

#### MID-ATLANTIC MEETING REMINDER

##### ANY MEMBER OR GUEST PLAYING GOLF STAYS FOR DINNER

Do not bother to come if you only want to play golf. If your host superintendent requests cards, be courteous enough to return cards before coming to the meeting.

#### G.C.S.A.A. MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

November 14-15 will be the dates to set aside for a brief two day course in financial decision making. Seminar topics include principles of financial decision-making, how financial controls determine and safeguard club operations and how to frame your ideas and proposals in precise, meaningful financial terms. Sessions include fiscal management decisions, understanding income statements and balance sheets. Extensive knowledge of mathematics is not required. Registration is by mail only. Fill out the registration form sent to you in the mail and return with \$60.00 to the National GCSAA Headquarters. The seminar is limited to 50 GCSAA members on a "first come, first served" basis. The Seminar will be held at the Hospitality House Motor Inn in Arlington, Virginia; 2000 Jefferson Davis Highway.

#### G.C.S.A.A. CONFERENCE - BOSTON - JANUARY 7-12

The 44th International Turfgrass Conference and Show will be held as scheduled on January 7 - 12, 1973 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Your advance registration form will be mailed to you from the National Headquarters. By registering in advance you will save time at the registration desk in Boston. You will also be assured of getting a room of your choice in a nearby hotel.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

November 14	Mid-Atlantic Meeting Norbeck Country Club Host: Bill Livingston
November 18	Ladies Night Washingtonian Motel (not Springfield C. C.) Cocktail Party - Dinner - Dance Flyer will follow in Mail
November 20	Maryland Turfgrass Council Meeting Center for Adult Education University of Maryland
December 4 - 6	Agronomy Short Course National 4 H Center Chevy Chase, Maryland
December 12	Mid-Atlantic Meeting Green Spring Valley Hunt Club Host: Jack McClenahan Election Meeting



- January 7 - 12 GCSAA Convention  
Boston, Massachusetts
- February 12 - 13 Mid-Atlantic Conference  
Holiday Inn  
Howard and Lombard Streets  
Baltimore, Maryland

## SAFETY FOR TREE WORKERS

Back in our September Newsletter we enjoyed an article on trees titled "How to Butcher a Tree" by Dr. George Blake of the University of Minnesota. This article was very well written and entertaining to read, but did not seriously point out safety regulations we should be aware of.

Tree work, be it pruning or dropping a dead tree, faces every superintendent in the fall and winter months of the year. While light pruning can often be taken care of with our summer help, the heavy and dangerous tree operations take place when the turf maintenance slows down and all the fall leaves are finally out of the way. We also have the added value of frozen ground to drop dead trees on during the winter months.

Safety with tree work begins with a complete instruction of the operation of the chain saw. I consider my chain saw the most dangerous tool I have to operate. All operators should be instructed to treat the saw as he would a gun - never point it at anybody. Proper adjustments and oil and gas mixtures can be taught in the shop, but actual cutting techniques have to be demonstrated on the job.

Tree workers must be encouraged to form safe working habits. This may be done by constant encouragement, discussion, and demonstration.

There is at least one right way and almost invariably numerous wrong ways to do every job. Following are some safety suggestions:

1. Know the basic rope knots if climbing in trees.
2. Do not climb or work in a tree when the bark is wet.
3. Avoid big tree work on windy days.
4. Only one man in a tree at a time.
5. Never less than two men when working with a chain saw - one cuts while the other removes the brush and cut wood.
6. Make daily inspection of all tools, rope, and other equipment.
7. Hard hats should be worn by all men working with trees.
8. Under average working conditions the working load placed on a rope should not exceed one-sixty of the breaking load or one-fourth the breaking load if the rope is new.
9. Ladders should not be used in tree work unless the base can be set on a firm foundation.
10. Lowering ropes should be used if the ground is not frozen or ground damage is anticipated.
11. Do not attempt to work on trees near electrical power lines - call in Pepco or professional tree experts.
12. Under cut a tree before making a final cut to drop a tree.
13. Small brush should not be cut with a power saw - limbs can cause injury to the operator.
14. Do not allow logs or brush to accumulate at the site of tree work.

Normally we are expected to accomplish all necessary tree maintenance with our own workforce and equipment.

I would expect that none of us are as well equipped as professional tree service companies. Consequently, everyone should exercise caution when improvising for lack of proper ropes, saddles, etc. Call in insured professionals when in doubt.

Keep in mind the accident rate in the field of tree specialists is higher than almost any other industrial line of work, as indicated by the high insurance rates that are required of commercial tree organizations.

## MID-ATLANTIC COURSE MAINTENANCE SURVEY

Enclosed in this newsletter is a one page questionnaire. This survey is designed to assist us individually and as a group to better inform us of typical expenditures for our maintenance operations. An analysis of the answers from this survey will provide useful figures to substantiate future expenditures within our own club budgets. Secondly, these figures will let you know where you stand in relation to the other Mid-Atlantic golf course operations - from labor and hourly wages through expenditures for supplies and power equipment.

What is the average hourly wage for a mechanic or greensman? Is your salary above or below average for our Washington area? What do other clubs annually spend on equipment maintenance or new equipment? Does your chemical costs seem high or low compared to other courses? Does the maintenance cost of your irrigation system substantiate updating or replacing your old system?

We often justify the cost of new equipment on the present man hours required to complete a maintenance operation. The results of this survey could illustrate to your club officials a potential savings of manpower with an increased equipment replacement program. The potential values of this survey are all too numerous to mention; for we can all find different applications for figures and statistics. As stated in the last newsletter, the identity of each respondent will remain confidential and all questionnaires will be destroyed after the completion of our survey.

A comparison of all operational and maintenance costs will be made by a grouping of a high, low, and average cost for each operation questioned. In order for these figures to provide us with accurate information every Mid-Atlantic golf course superintendent must complete and send in the questionnaire. A 100% accuracy is only obtainable with a 100% response.

We are conducting this survey for the benefit of our Mid-Atlantic members. Don't short change yourself on obtaining useful information. Answer all questions, sign your name, and send the questionnaire to:

Mid-Atlantic Survey  
14405 Pecan Drive  
Rockville, Maryland 20853

## LANDSCAPE FOR LIVING

The 1972 Yearbook of Agriculture is available from:

The Superintendent of Documents  
Washington, D. C. 20402

This Yearbook contains basic, practical information for both the professionals and homeowners.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

At the October 19 board meeting, two new applications were read and are being published here in accordance with our by-laws. Unless written objection is received within 30 days after publication these men will become active members with their requested classifications.

Lee Jarman - Class D Assistant  
Hunt Valley Country Club

Glenn S. Shields - Class H Student  
Woodmont Country Club

## PROFESSIONAL GROUNDS MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Paul Barefoot, U. S. Soldiers Home, has been re-elected National President for a second term of the Professional Grounds Management Society.

CONGRATULATIONS PAUL ! ! ! !

## CORRECTION

Ladies Night will be held at the Washingtonian Motel and not at Springfield Country Club. The date will be November 18. Watch for a flyer in the mail.

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“Whoever could make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.”

Quote from PROTURF ISSUE FOUR, O. M. Scott & Son publication.

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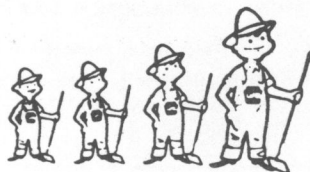
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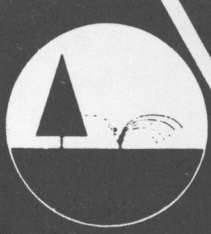
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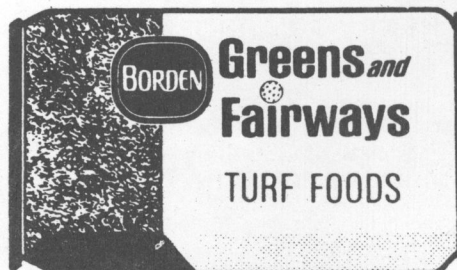
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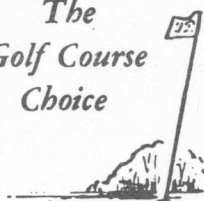
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ATLANTIC News Letter**

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