



CHARTER

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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



Fellow Members:

It is said that good will come to him with patience. Maybe it wasn't quite said like that, but you get my drift. Our November meeting at Ron Hall's Maryland Golf and Country Club was not our best attended meeting this year, but it certainly

featured our strongest member participation. The educational program and the give-and-take of the meeting brought back memories of old. I want to thank all who participated in the lively discussion, I'd thought maybe we didn't have it anymore. You've renewed my faith, I'm sure we're getting back on the right track.

Applause! to Ben Stagg and his trusty assistant, Ken Braun for putting together another outstanding Ladies' Night. To Mr. Dunn, the manager, and his staff at Sparrows Point Country Club and to Al Watson, our host, a hearty "Thank you for having us." Our visits to Sparrows Point Country Club are always a pleasure because of your outstanding hospitality.

Our December 13th (second Tuesday) meeting at the United States Naval Academy Golf Course in Annapolis promises to be another outstanding meeting. Mike McKenzie is our host, and Mike assures us a nice day. The day's events are highlighted by our annual membership meeting, and with the election of a new Board of Directors we should have an interesting evening. The future direction of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents is in *your* hands. See you there.

Yours for better turf for better golf.

Bill Emerson

December Meeting

On December 13th the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be holding its annual Election Meeting at the United States Naval Academy Golf Course in Annapolis, Maryland.

Your host will be Mike McKenzie. Mike has been Golf Course Superintendent at the Naval Academy since March of 1973.

The U.S.N.A. Golf Course is located just outside the City limits of Historic Annapolis, close to the Western shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the Northern shores of the Severn River, in an area known as North Severn.

In 1940 the Naval Academy took over the abandoned nine hole course known as Greenbury Point Golf Course in North Severn. During 1942-43 a second nine was added to bring the course to eighteen holes. In 1955 two holes, 12 and 13, were relocated, and a driving range and practice putting green were completed in 1956.

The Course is operated by the U.S.N.A. Golf Association which is made up of Military and Civilian personnel and headed by the U.S.N.A. Director of Athletics, J. O. Coppedge, Capt. USN (Ret.).

Golf can be played anytime. Social hour will start at 5:00 P.M. and Dinner will begin at 6:00 P.M.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB:

From Washington go East on Route 50, cross the Severn River Bridge, and take exit Baltimore - Naval Academy, keep right (Route 450). From Baltimore take Route 2 toward Annapolis, follow signs to Naval Academy (Route 450). From Eastern Shore take Route 50 to 450. Follow 450 to light, turn left. At the first stop sign bear to the right - straight through the next stop sign to the golf course. NOTE: Radar Trap through the golf course Speed Limit 30 mph.

DIRECTIONS TO DINNER AND MEETING:

From Route 450 cross Old Severn River Bridge and turn left at first light (Gate 8).-Go to the bottom of hill - first building on the right; Hubbard Hall (up stairs, N. Room).

Golf can be played anytime - free carts available. Social hour will start at 5:00 P.M., open bar and Dinner will begin at 6:00 P.M. Shrimp cocktail, Tossed Salad, Rib Eye Roast Beef, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Rolls and Butter, Coffee and/or Tea, Cake and Ice Cream. \$13.00 per person includes open bar.

Food for Thought

Mr. Alexander M. Radko
 USGA Green Section
 Golf Course, Far Hills, N.J.

Dear Al,

I read with great interest your article "Green is not Great" in the August, 1977 issue of *Golf Journal*. Your observations of color vs. playing surface was probably the most unbiased discussion on this topic that I have ever read. Both sides of this argument were presented fairly. However, please allow me to relate some of my observations to possibly present another angle to this important topic:

Sadly, golf has changed considerably since the first hole was set into the ground in the British Isles during the 1400's. It began to mature in 1744 when the "Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers" formulated the first authenticated golf organization. This organization created 13 articles which became the original rules of golf.

In 1764, St. Andrews reduced its golf course from 22 holes to 18 holes. This reduction set the "standard" for subsequent golf courses. These events, I feel, were the birth of the game that we know as "golf" today. The rules were simple and needed no other interpretation. In those days there were no "special rulings" because one happened to be located behind an immovable obstruction or some other condition to warrant outside explanation. There were no provisions for "embedded balls" or "lift, clean and place;" there was no marking of "Ground Under Repair" to allow a player to drop his ball elsewhere. In fact, originally, only two rules needed to be followed. The golfer was required to: "Play the course as you find it, and play the ball as it lies" and: "You touch your ball when you tee it up and don't touch it again until you take it out of the hole."

What happened, Al? Why did golf make the changes of today? Today's golfer has his hands on the ball more often than not. He wants, and is allowed relief from nearly every unsatisfactory situation he confronts. I believe that changes were made because of pressure. You mention in your fine article that too many Golf

(continued on page 4)

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WAYNE'S PLACE



As you know George Cleaver will be running for President of G.C.S.A.A. at our annual conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas in February. What you may not know is who else will be running for what other offices. The following is a lineup of those people and their respective offices.

- President - George Cleaver, C.G.C.S.
- Vice President - Melvin B. Lucas, C.G.C.S.
- Charles H. Tadge, C.G.C.S.
- Directors (2 to be elected) - Daniel L. Hall, Jr.
- David C. Holler, C.G.C.S.
- Robert W. Ostermann, C.G.C.S.
- Clarence H. Wolfrom, Jr.
- James A. Wyllie, C.G.C.S.

The following people were the nominating committee for the national elections.

- Robert M. Williams
- Richard C. Blake, C.G.C.S.
- Daniel L. Hall, Jr.
- Quinton A. Johnson, C.G.C.S.
- John A. Zoller

On the local scene we have our own elections coming up in December at the U.S. Naval Academy. Considering there have been so many critical comments this year about how our association is run and the future of our association, I think that every voting member should be there to exercise their voting privilege. The following people are running for office:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Sam Kessell | President |
| Virgil Robinson | Vice President |
| Mike MacKenzie | Treasurer |
| Ron Hall | Secretary |
| Ken Braun | } Directors |
| Thomas Haske | |
| Stanley Lawson | |
| Gerry Gerard | |

Anyone else wishing to place any other name in nomination for any of the above offices may do so from the floor at the election meeting. The above names were placed in nomination by our nominating committee made up of Al Watson, Paul Barefoot, Lee Dicter and Chairman David Fairbank.

If anyone has an address change or knows of anyone else having an address change please inform me ASAP. I had eight newsletters returned this month from local people that had moved and left no forwarding address. I had four other members that I knew of, but had no address for them. These all have been taken care of, but please if you want to be kept informed, you've got to keep me informed.

This year Sam Kessel is in charge of booking all of our meeting places for calendar year 1978. "So far no luck," says Sam. If your club would like to host a meeting this year, or if you know of any club that would allow us to play golf, then eat at a nearby restaurant, we would like to hear from you.

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Food for Thought

(continued from page 2)

Course Superintendents follow the path of least resistance "rather than stand up and say, 'You are wrong! My program is the best long-range direction for the club, we'll do it my way completely and totally!' " Well, I contend that the Golf Course Superintendent is not yielding to the pressure of his membership at all. He is merely following the dictates of the United States Golf Association itself, through the rules of golf!

Today, the United States Golf Association publishes large, yearly volumes of "Decision on the Rules of Golf by the U.S.G.A." At the very onset, why did they follow the path of least resistance rather than to rule as follows: "Play the course as you find it, and play the ball as it lies"? Today's golfer is not only allowed relief, but he can move his ball over 14 feet to secure designed relief (two club lengths for the drop and two more that the ball may roll after the drop). Why? The reason is simple. As golf processed into the United States, we Americans found the original rules of golf much too inequitable. "Rub of the Green" was more than we could endure. Today, "Rub of the Green" has been reduced to such items as hitting the ball further than anticipated and rolling into a hazard. And, even though this example has been accepted as the "Rub of the Green" of today, the Golf Course Superintendent will still suffer the blame, because the golf course was too dry!

Let's suppose that we did employ "survival of the

fittest" management on our golf courses. Obviously, there would be a good amount of "browned out" areas as well as areas of vigorous, healthy green turf. Proficient golfers, eventually landing in areas of "green growth" would complain about the unfairness of the situation . . . less than three feet away would have been a perfect lie on dormant grass, and here he is, on green grass. Conversely, the poor golfer would eventually find himself on the "browned out" area, neighboring the green turf he desires. How many times have you, myself, and all associated with golf course maintenance been subjected to this statement by the golfer, "I only ask one thing from a golf course . . . consistency!"

The United States Golf Association has also encouraged this attitude by the numerous rulings in the "Decisions on the Rules of Golf by the U.S.G.A." so that the game will be as "fair" for one player as it is for another. Because of this, golf has committed itself. Unless the rules of golf change drastically, then, as Golf Course Superintendents, we too, are committed to provide consistency throughout the golf course. To provide this dictated consistency, the Golf Course Superintendent has two alternatives. Either we kill all turf equally or we must make all turf similar in texture, color, and playability. Obviously, a golf operation with no turf has no chance for success, therefore, the Golf Course Superintendent strives for evenly textured turfgrass. The "by-product" of this "forced manage-

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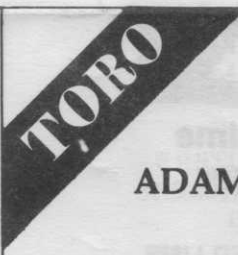


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Food for Thought

(continued from page 4)

ment" program is green, lush, vigorous turf, clipped daily to give it the consistency dictated by our membership and supported the United States Golf Association's Rules of Golf and subsequent decisions.

Al, there is an axiom in our profession that you are surely aware of: "Dead turf is not the problem, it is merely the result of another problem." This means that although we see the dead turf, we must realize that it died from some other reason . . . the true problem. It could have died from compaction, poor drainage, equipment damage, disease, overwatering, under-watering, and on and on through the innumerable other causes. From our training, we know that we will never have healthy turf, unless the true problem is corrected, otherwise the turf will never have a chance for survival.

Following this line of thinking, I contend that the extensive management programs employed in golf course maintenance are not the problem. From my side of the fence I see today's management programs as the result of the dictates of the United States Golf Association itself, through it's rules and "decisions" . . . the striving for equitable playing conditions. This quest for consistency has caused golf course management to strive for today's ultimate manicuring of the golf course. Very honestly, Al, can we truly be expected to follow any other path? Why has the burden of "purist" been placed solely upon the golf Course Superintendents' shoulder?

Extensive maintenance is not the problem, it is merely the result of "Decisions on the Rules of Golf by the U.S.G.A.," the actual rules themselves and the demand for equitable consistency. As we cannot expect the "dead turf" to survive under the same conditions, we cannot expect maintenance of golf courses to change unless the rules themselves change drastically. As long as the United States Golf Association is committed to the equitable, consistent playing surfaces over 100% of the golf course, then I, as a Professional Golf Course Superintendent, will devote all my efforts to conform to this United States Golf Association policy. You cannot have survival of the fittest, resulting in uneven growth and patches of live and dead turf as well as consistency at the same time.

What, then, is the alternative? I believe the challenge is now before us. We must breed, and support the breeding of finer textured drought resistant, and above all, consistent turfgrass varieties that can survive under all soil conditions and differences in nature. The U.S.G.A. Green Section and every Golf Course Superintendent across the United States must find a way to please all. Until this has been realized, there is truly no hope of "returning to the good old days."

Al, I don't mean to come across as criticizing the United States Golf Association. Golf has made many changes in all aspects of the game. Equipment has become much more sophisticated, to the extent of now being designed by a computer! Golf courses architecture has also made numerous changes from the early "penal" design concept to the "strategic" concept with "heroic" and "redan" principals employed. The result of these changes has been to tilt the balance between strategy, psychology, skill and luck. Within the structure of these changes has also seen golf course maintenance progress towards the consistency dictated by the alternations in equipment, architecture, and the interpretations of the rules by the United States Golf Association.

So please, when this discussion arises again, don't allow the finger to be immediately pointed at my profession of Golf Course Superintendent. Ultimately, the finger must be directed towards those truly responsible for creating this "monster" . . . The United

(continued on page 6)

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Food for Thought

(continued from page 5)

States Golf Association itself. Actually, the issue should have died immediately, when the very first ruling was made contrary to: "Play the course as you find it, and play the ball as it lies." The first lenient decision dictated the policy of the future of golf course maintenance and any other conclusion is unfair to the most devoted individual in golf . . . THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT.

Sincerely,

James A. Bertoni

LaJolla Country Club, LaJolla, CA

Membership Application

The following person has applied for membership in M.A.A.G.C.S.:

John C. Sleeman Class D

Assistant Superintendent 5/74 to present

Redgate Golf Course, Rockville, Md.

Application signed by Ray Evans and Gerry Gerard.

Any opposition to this membership must be in writing to the Board of Directors within 30 days. If there is no opposition, this man will be accepted into membership.

Training Assistants Demands Skill

Developing an assistant is one of the challenging jobs an administrator can have. When the trainee takes over a top-level position, he probably will adhere to the good business practices learned on the job.

Developing an assistant is hard work, requiring careful attention to details and explanations while yielding an enormous amount of confidence in and responsibility to the trainee. Here are a few items that may help in attempting to develop an assistant:

Give him the facts: Only being informed about his responsibilities and authorities can an assistant get a clear picture of what he is to do and how he should do it. A job description should be developed to give a trainee some guidelines. Personally introduce the assistant to those with whom he will be working.

Smooth his path: Request employees who work with your assistant to cooperate with him. Inform everyone of the duties he will be performing--then impress upon him the importance of earning the respect and confidence of these employees.

Share knowledge: You must keep the assistant informed of your plans, your progress and your reasons for making each move. If you expect him to do a good job,

(continued on page 8)

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From the Board

One of the major topics of discussion at our last two board meetings has been our 1978 operating budget. This budget will include all meeting expenses, newsletter expenses and income, educational committee expenses for the two-day conference and the national conference expenses. Also included in the budget will be tournament committee expenses and social and benevolence committee expenses including Ladies' Night, picnic expenses, and expenses for members children's births, and flowers for the sick members or their families. This budget is quite extensive, so as we did in 1977, each individual chairman will prepare his budget and submit it to the finance chairman to prepare a total budget for the year. The budget will then be brought before the board as a whole to be accepted, rejected, or altered.

George Thompson reported that all is set for the Turfgrass '78 at the Sheraton Lanham, January 9th through 12th. As in past years M.A.A.G.C.S. will have its program on Monday and Tuesday. This year other local P.G.M.S. groups have combined with us so that Turfgrass '78 will be four days long including an equipment show which starts Tuesday at noon.

Wayne Evans reported that many ads for the Newsletter were dropped in 1977 for various different reasons. Because of this fact the Newsletter operated

over budget this year. At present we have more new ads for next year, and the ad prices will be raised moderately so that we can operate the Newsletter on a self-supporting basis.

The Board voted on and elected our Superintendent of the Year for 1977. Seven men were nominated. They were Lou White, Alex Watson, Ron Hall, David Fairbank, Bob Miller, Virgil Robinson and Bill Emerson. The ballot was a secret one and only one of our board members knows who it is. The plaque will be awarded in January at our annual banquet.

A lengthy discussion on complaints from the floor at our November meeting was held. All complaints that could be dealt with and remedied immediately, were. It was the feeling at the board that there was a drop off in attendance at meetings, but not in membership. We believe that quality of meetings is far more important than the quantity of people there. We know of many reasons for the drop off in attendance: costs, distances to meetings, too much golf, too little golf, not enough educational meetings, and many more. Believe us, we've heard them all, and we will do all within our power to rectify what we can. If this improves the quality, then the quantity will follow. We would like the members to realize, when you joined M.A.A.G.C.S. you should have made up your mind to support it. Not attending our meetings is your prerogative, but by doing this you can't voice your opinions or concerns, and you won't know what went on. The M.A.A.G.C.S. can be a great benefit to all its members if each member chooses to support it by his attendance. "If you don't come to the well, you can't drink the water."

If anyone has any complaints, comments, criticisms, or compliments to bring before the board, he may write or call any of our board members. Our next board meeting will be held December 13th at the U.S. Naval Academy prior to our regular membership meeting.

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER 13
U.S. Naval Academy
Election Meeting

JANUARY 9 THROUGH 12
Turfgrass '78
Sheraton Lanham

JANUARY 16 THROUGH 19
Penn State University Turf Conference
University Park, Pa.

JANUARY 27
U.S.G.A. Green Section Conference
San Francisco, Ca.

FEBRUARY 12
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Training Assistants

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you must share your knowledge with your assistant. Warn him of problem areas and see that he learns the ins and outs of working with the people working for you.

Neglecting to provide background information keeps the assistant in the dark and prevents him from performing to the best of his ability as well as makes him look bad in the eyes of those with whom he must work.

Add responsibility gradually: Let the assistant get a feel for his job. Then gradually give him additional small doses of responsibility. By working in this fashion he will gradually absorb additional knowledge and pick up those qualities that make a manager competent.

Hold a loose rein: An assistant who is constantly being checked on gets the feeling he is not trusted and this retards his growth as a manager. Let loose and give your assistant a free rein--let him make decisions and learn by his mistakes. You don't want a trainee to lose his initiative; but keeping him under your finger can snuff out any spark or flame of initiative.

Give him authority: Give your assistant a task and tell him to get the job done and to come to you only if he sees problems or something is out of line. Encourage him to bring one or more suggested solutions to any problems he may bring you. Instead of giving him answers to problems, guide him to making the correct decision.

Remember that you are in control: Delegate responsibility and authority but remember that you are in control.

Check regularly on assignments given to your assistant. Avoid checking details; emphasize the overall job. Everyone does a job differently. If your assistant produces results but does it in a different manner than you, don't nag him about his methods.

Reprinted in part from *A Patch of Green*, July, 1976.

Free to GCSAA Members!

Many turfgrass maintenance operations are dependent on mathematical calculations. To help you understand and execute the basic mathematics for these operations, GCSAA has prepared a 58-page, 8½ x 11 inch manual on THE MATHEMATICS OF TURFGRASS MAINTENANCE.

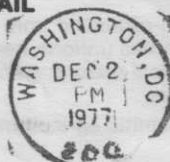
This handy reference manual and workbook is a step-by-step explanation of the basic mathematics used in daily maintenance procedures. Included are sections on area and volume measurement, application of pesticides and fertilizers, steps to determine seeding rates, and irrigation application calculations. The manual also contains a ready-reference guide to metric conversions and answers to numerous sample problems.

To get your copy of this valuable publication, send to: GCSAA, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kansas. Each GCSAA member is allowed one free copy of THE MATHEMATICS OF TURFGRASS MAINTENANCE: additional copies for members will cost \$2.50. Nonmembers may purchase copies of the manual for \$5.00 each. The price includes postage and handling. Please allow 30 days for delivery.

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

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